BRITISH MUSEUM

JOHN BULL

Vol. VIII. No. 199. | SATURDAY. MARCH 26, 1910. | ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

No. 307209

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Vol. VIII. No. 199. Saturday, March 26th, 1910. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Mr. Asquith is looking very tired and worried. He has had a rough time of it. But his personal hold on the House—despite the rebellion of the Dalzielites—is stronger than it has ever been before.

Up to the time of going to press with this page, there has been no official denial of our statement that Mr. Haldane and Sir Edward Grey are contemplating retirement from the Government. Should such a disclaimer be made before we finally "go to foundry," it will be dealt with on another page. The *Westminster Gazette*, however, has honoured us with a poster and an article, in which our story is described as a "canard" (why this literary barbarism?), with the sub-heading of "Complete Denial." But the denial is that of our contemporary—not of the Ministers concerned.

But the *Westminster* is positively funny when dealing with our statement that the Government intends to bring about a financial deadlock in May. "Such a plan," says its Funny Man, "would place the Government in the position of refusing Supply to itself—a position that would be ridiculous *if it continued to be responsible for the administration of the country.*" Note the words we have emphasised. There is the whole point. The present Government will *not* "continue to be responsible for the administration of the country"—and the whole object of the scheme is to prevent its successor from carrying on the nation's business.

But, as we have said, the scheme won't work. The crisis will come before the limited Vote on Account is exhausted; the Government will resign; *Mr. Balfour will form a Ministry* (he is hurrying home for the purpose of completing it), and a way will be found of raising money for the public service pending the result of the Election. We think we can suggest one.

Meanwhile, the composition of the new Ministry is well in hand. Mr. Bonar Law is already fixed up for the Board of Trade; Mr. Austen Chamberlain, of course, goes back to the Treasury; Lord Milner and Lord Curzon have agreed to accept office; and Mr. F. E. Smith will most probably forsake the Bar for the Home Secretaryship. Sir Robert Finlay will go to the Woolsack; Mr. Cave will most likely become Solicitor-General (with Sir Edward Carson as Attorney); Sir Gilbert Parker and Mr. Ashley will get something, and the ever-popular "Paddy" Goulding will not be overlooked. Sir Frederick Banbury will become Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. Now you know all about it.

As Messrs. Lawrance and Grantham insist on sticking to the Bench till the Tories come in, the Bill authorising the appointment of two additional judges is being rushed through so that these plums shall go to the Liberal party before it commits the unhappy dispatch. Quite right, too—as the game is played.

Is there any truth in the rumour that a certain pillar of the Scotch Church, who was recently sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for embezzlement, has been removed from gaol and is now whiling away the time at a hydro on the West Coast?

As we have frequently pointed out, one of the chief obstacles in the way of breaking down the tyranny of the Party system is the abject attitude of the daily Press. Take any day's news, and see how it is distorted and coloured to suit the tastes of readers. Here, at random, are a few headlines: *The Express*—"Labour Exchanges Failure"; *Daily News*—"Success of Labour Exchanges"; *Daily Mail*—"Work for only One in Five"; *Daily Chronicle*—"Thousands Find Work by New Exchanges." How *can* the public ever know the truth? Well may we be contemplating coming out as a daily. More anon.

At the Speaker's reception the other night we had a chat with Herbert Gladstone. He is full of enthusiasm for his new work, and is in the best of health and spirits. We have never been amongst his detractors, and we predict that he will be a great success.

What a pity it is that the Government will keep on assuring us that it is "in earnest"!

We deeply grieve to learn that a paragraph which appeared in our issue of March 12th referring to a recent alleged elopement, has been construed by Lord Knollys as a reflection upon a member of his family, Miss Louvima Knollys. At the time the paragraph appeared, we had not the remotest idea that Lord Knollys had a daughter named Louvima, and we hasten to say that nothing was further from our intention than to associate Miss Knollys with the paragraph in question, and that we express to her our sincerest regret for any annoyance or pain which the paragraph may have caused her.

Mr. Justice Eve is of an inquiring turn of mind. Arguing a case in his lordship's court the other day, a barrister illustrated one of his points by the revelation that there is a charity in Winchester for the free distribution of beer to travellers. "At what address do you say that is done?" queried his lordship, with uplifted eyebrows. "Ah," was the reply, "I'm sorry your lordship has not found it; I have." Blessed are they who thirst for knowledge and are satisfied. That barrister evidently knows where to apply when he travels to Winchester to conduct a dry case.

Apropos our recent reference to the Canadian duty levied upon British trade catalogues, one of our readers says:—

> In May, 1908, I landed in Montreal with a certain patent consisting of a folding joint and a brass sliding tube and spring. I explained to the Customs Officers I was only bringing it into the country to form agencies, not to sell the article, and should be taking it back with me. I, however, had to pay about 30s. import duty, although it was a British patented article (cost of manufacture was 35s.). My brother-in-law, who was with me, also had to pay about £10 on some samples he was taking out there under similar conditions. When, however, I entered the States at Niagara, they passed the goods through when I explained the circumstances without any duty whatever. Therefore in a British Colony, with a British patent, I found it more expensive to enter than I did in the United States."

And we talk about Colonial Preference!

It is to the credit of Mr. M. J. Powell, a member of the Ledbury Board of Guardians, that, noticing a respectable-looking man doing his best to perform his task of stonebreaking in one of the tramp wards, while obviously ill, he lost no time in bringing the matter to the attention of his colleagues. The man was trying to do the work on bread and water, though he was at the point of collapse. The story of that man is the story of many. More than that, it is our workhouse system in a nutshell. He was a labourer, and he had walked from Worcester to Malvern, back again to Worcester, and thence to Ledbury in search of work. Feeling ill, he turned into the workhouse for shelter and food, though until the previous morning he had never been in a casual ward before. On admission he did not complain of being ill. The next morning, without complaining, he turned to his stone-breaking, determined, as he afterwards told the Guardians, "to do his best."

"If consideration was given to one it would be difficult to get the others into the cells at all," said the porter, apparently surprised that there should be so much fuss about the matter. Happily, the sympathy of the Board was aroused, the man was allowed to go, and "as he passed out several members placed coins in his hand to help him on his way." When shall it be counted for righteousness to a Government in this country to abolish the present system? For here, indeed, is the Parable of the Vineyard: "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?"

What is behind the £6,808 refuse destructor contract entered into by the Bedford Corporation? Why was it not thrown open to public competition? Is it true that the actual amount involved in the contract, including piling, is over £13,000, that plans of another destructor were actually deposited with the consulting engineer, at a covering price of £8,000, and that the destructor so planned had more efficient boilers and a greater burning capacity than the one accepted? The reason we ask these questions is that on the face of the allegations as they reach us the selection committee who have given this contract, apparently without competition, have wasted many hundreds of pounds of the ratepayers' money by their action.

When a brute beats little children till they are black and blue, it is obvious that he deserves sharp punishment. If a man sleeps out, or walks about without visible means of subsistence, or steals a loaf of bread when he is hungry, or enters a workhouse professing to be destitute, and on search is discovered in possession of twopence, he is frequently sentenced to fourteen days' hard. Even when he kicks his wife or strikes his mother-in-law with a coal shovel he is often fined as much as five shillings and costs. But somehow the tendency of magistrates is to regard cruel fathers with a more lenient eye. Take a case heard in the Dunfermline Sheriff Court the other day. It was proved that the man in the dock had cruelly beaten his four-years-old child, for "from the small of the back down to the hips was simply one livid bruise." What was the result? "In the hope that the man would curb his temper, Sheriff Shennan postponed sentence for three months;" meaning that the creature gets off free gratis and for nothing. May we enquire whether before leaving the precincts he requested the Sheriff to be kind enough to present him with half-a-pound of somebody's pure tea?

According to Judge Bacon, "the bad writing of signatures is affectation of the worst form." This is a shocking attack on Mr. Balfour, to say nothing of anybody else; for the Leader of the Opposition apparently wishes to make people understand that his first name is Art, his second Jam, and his third Balf. He is, in fact, one of those weary men who, when they start writing their names, are constitutionally incapacitated from finishing the job.

One of our readers in Washington, U.S.A., sends us a local paper which professes to give an account of "Johnny Bull's election." We learn that "candidates for Parliament were unable to tour their constituencies without strong guards. In spite even of their guards many were knocked down, beaten, kicked, and trampled upon. An attempt was made to shoot one. Conservative club rooms were sacked, and numerous efforts made by infuriated mobs to burn the houses of candidates or their lieutenants. . . . Free drinks were served under the orders of campaign managers by nearly every saloon in England to whomsoever would promise in return to cast his ballot with the Conservatives," and so forth. Johnny Bull will have to improve on this next time, or he will certainly awaken the police.

There is quite a crowd of Colonels and Admirals on the Gosport magisterial bench, and when a gunner of the R.G.A. was summoned for riding a cycle on the footpath, they demanded his conduct sheet in order that they might look into his military character. Why a man should produce a confidential military document of this nature because he is caught cycling on a footpath is incomprehensible. The magistrates might as reasonably ask him to disclose his birth-marks. An officer in court, acting on the instructions of his Colonel, refused to produce the record, whereupon the Chairman remarked that "it was the first time these papers had been refused, and if it occurred again the case would be adjourned." Evidently the Admirals and the Colonels of the Gosport Bench forget that a Court of Justice is neither a battleship nor a barracks. Their demand was ridiculous.

The Social Democrats in the Reichstag have succeeded in passing a motion demanding a Bill making the Chancellor responsible for the acts of the Kaiser. That is the position of the King in this country; but in Germany—well, all we have to say is that we pity the Chancellor. It is a burden which even Providence might reasonably decline to assume.

Having got in by a majority of two, the "Municipal Reformers" of the London County Council have conscientiously annexed all the vacant aldermanic seats, numbering ten; which will enable them to govern London for the next three years quite as effectively as if they had been elected by a majority of fifty. Undoubtedly the "Progressives" were more generous when they were in a similar position in 1895, for they then gave half the aldermanic seats to their opponents and kept the control of London practically through the casting vote of the chairman. Still, County Council elections are fought on party, and Sir John Benn has little cause for complaint that the victors have taken the spoils. If London wants to be governed by "Progressives" it will have to elect more of them —that's all.

Mr. Winston Churchill has signalised his promotion to the Home Office by authorising the Prison Commissioners to relieve the Suffragist ladies, and other persons not actually guilty of what may be called dishonourable conduct or serious violence, of many degradations hitherto put upon them by the prison rules. For instance, they may wear their own clothes, and improve their minds with the best authors, need not go to bath, or clean their cells, or get their hair cut. Still, Mrs. Pankhurst complains of the incompleteness of these concessions. Mr. Churchill is a gentleman of unbounded imagination, and to please the lady we suggest that he shall think again. When a Suffragette desires to retire to Holloway, and her wishes are respected by the magistrate, will Mr. Churchill be kind enough to consider whether he can arrange to supply her with a grand pianoforte, a scent spray, a box of patent curlers, a satin upholstered settee, and a bed of swan's down? Indeed, why send her to Holloway at all? Why not maintain a suite of furnished apartments for her in Hampton Court Palace? He could surely persuade the Minister of Public Works to add an extra wing.

Mr. Justice Darling is undoubtedly a humorist, but when, in hearing a murder charge at Birmingham he himself drank, and induced counsel and the jury to drink, a similar poisonous cup to that by which the murder was alleged to have been committed, he should have remembered that it might have been a killing joke. It is true that the chemist who concocted the two-grain mixture of cyanide of potassium guaranteed that five grains was the minimum fatal dose, and that as a guarantee of good faith he drank a portion of the mixture himself. But if his unsteady hand had accidentally shaken a few more grains into the bottle, where would his lordship and counsel and the jury have spent their Easter vacation? Who shall say?

At a farewell gathering at Plymouth to bid God-speed to the Total Abstinence Society's Missioner, one of the speakers, dealing with the question of Sunday observance, said he had lately "seen a minister of religion desecrate the Sabbath by getting into a tram-car." A thrill went through the audience, but it was eclipsed by a further revelation. He had also seen "a well-known Plymouth gentleman going away on Sunday for a walk on the moors." Verily, we have fallen upon evil days. The end of the world must be at hand.

We hear a funny story about the City of London Electric Lighting Co. at Bankside. The Company advertise their electric radiators for heating purposes, but one of our readers says he has just fitted up their own offices with hot-water pipes, which are hidden under the floors in cases. No doubt there is another side to the question, and we should like to hear it.

Here is an extraordinary case which we find reported in the *Cheltenham Echo*. The landlord of the Britannia Inn was fined £1 and costs for a breach of the Licensing Act, 1872. His offence consisted in providing what is known as "the long pull," and the evidence was that, when a policeman came and asked for a pint of draught beer, no attempt was made to measure the beer, but the landlord's wife drew it direct into the bottle, giving the purchaser nearly three-quarters instead of half-a-quart. To our innocent minds this does not seem a very heinous offence, any more than that of grocers who advertise themselves by "giving away" a packet of tea to purchasers of their goods. However, the Shallows of Cheltenham, fortified by an antiquated law, thought otherwise. It was pointed out in defence that the landlord was ignorant of his wife's generosity, and that he bore a good character. Accordingly, one would have supposed that a magistrate with a grain of commonsense would, at the very worst, have bound him over if he were guilty of a technical breach of the law. The Chairman, however, observed that "people who give the 'long pull' attract custom from those who give correct measure." It might also be objected against the vendors of good liquor that they take away custom from people who supply bad beverages. If they were logical, the magistrates would also have to punish any publican who ventured to sell beer more cheaply than his rivals. But logic is not precisely one of the assets of some magistrates or of those statesmen who are responsible for license legislation.

A firm calling itself the United Investment and Trust Company of Birmingham recently advertised in the *Daily Telegraph* for a manager. Applicants received a letter from 1, Orchard Lodge, Nether Street, Church End, Finchley, signed James Reynolds, Secretary, informing them that their applications had met with approval, that the remuneration would be one increasing from £200 to £500 per annum, and that, on receipt of a nominal fee of 2s. to cover working expenses, full instructions would be forwarded. It strikes us as somewhat unusual to ask a fee of 2s. as a qualification for a manager's post at a salary ranging from £200 to £500 a year, and we await with suspicious interest a record of the experiences of any candidate who has been innocent enough to send a postal order.

Police-constable Benjamin Peacock, of Brixton, had a surprise the other morning. The horses of a laundryman, named Tyrrell, were stabled near the house, and the proprietor, suspecting that the animals were not getting all the forage he provided for their sustenance, arose in the dawn, and, in company with his son, concealed himself in the stable. By-and-bye, the policeman, having come off night duty, climbed over the wall, opened the corn bin, and helped himself to a large bowl of oats. At this solemn and decisive moment, the owner of the gee-gees bobbed up, produced a door-handle which, in the gloom, looked like a pistol, held it out at arm's length, and cried "Hands up!" For more than an hour he held the frightened policeman at bay with this deadly weapon, while his son went to the police station and requested the officer in charge to send another policeman to arrest the sinner. As a matter of fact, it was ten-minutes-to-eight in the morning before the arrest was made; which seems to show that the rest of the force were too busy to worry about the fate of a colleague in mortal fear of being shot with a door handle for stealing a few pennyworth of oats. The sequel was that P.C. Peacock was brought up at Lambeth Police Court, and fined 40s. This is one of the advantages of being a policeman. A hungry tramp would probably have had to do a month at least. Query, Why did Robert steal the oats? Was he hungry?

Apparently the pastor of the High Road Baptist Church at Ilford is a gentleman of ideas. According to his *Monthly*, he is seriously considering whether he should not start service with the sermon in order to cure those of his congregation who come late, his idea being that they will come in five minutes too soon rather than miss it. Then follows an appeal. "If," says he, "it is absolutely necessary to faint during any part of the service, will friends kindly do so during the interval provided for that and other purposes?" Finally, he suggests it would not be a bad thing if a bowl containing cough lozenges could be placed in church porches under the notice, "Please take one." We sympathise, but fear. Our rev. brother seems to be trying to cure the incurable. And we warn him that if in despair he excludes those who are late, those who faint, and those who cough, he will probably lose the bulk of his congregation.

Should Marriages be Private or Public? What a question! Yet it is being discussed in various journals, apropos a petition to the Home Secretary formulated by the Female Aid Society. For our own part, we suggest that privacy or publicity is a matter entirely for the couples concerned. Many young ladies would not feel they had been "properly married" unless a crowd of people witnessed the ceremony. In fact, we believe some of them would like to revert to the custom of the ancient French Court, when the bride and bridegroom were put into the nuptial couch amid demonstrations of interest on the part of a vast *entourage*; and a mass of witnesses were cited to attend upon all Royal confinements. On one of these occasions, by the way, there was a night alarm; and the Dauphin carried an unwilling sentry off his beat into the apartment of the Dauphine who was about to supply an heir to the Fren h Throne! Other English couples would rather not be married at all than be fussed over at the fatal ceremony. The Female Aid Society, however, scents all sorts of horrors in Registry Office weddings. Tut, tut!

Whilst the average politician is compelled to seek self-preservation in party, we do not very well see how it is possible to prevent widespread dissemination of reckless inexactitude, even though all the school of the blessed Alphonso de' Liguori should hold that in the circumstances it is neither justified of works nor purified by grace. As Professor Pollard says, the greatest evil in politics is that black is never black and white is never white; "the public, even less than the House of Commons, recognise that there are two sides to a question." The misfortune is that the longer the party system is perpetuated, the longer the public will be stuffed with lies and the less chance they will get of coming at the truth about either principles or policies. Happily, their salvation is in their own hands, and all the signs of the times go to show that they are fast coming into reason and light.

With reference to our recent paragraph concerning the Reverend Cyril S. G. Poole, of St. Philip's Church, Dorridge, and to the doubts subsequently expressed as to the correctness of our correspondent's statements, we are now satisfied that there was not an atom of foundation for the story about the non-administration of the Communion to a dying woman, owing to the absence of an altar, and we exceedingly regret any annoyance which has been caused to the reverend gentleman in connection with the matter. Our enquiries satisfy us that Mr. Poole is the last person in the world who would have been capable of such conduct.

An advertiser in the *Telegraph* wants a shorthand typist; "must be a real lady, and workmen's daughters will not be entertained." Seems a good chance for an unemployed peeress to make herself rather useful.

Here is an extract from the *St. John's (Upper Holloway) Parish Magazine*. We direct attention to the discrepancy between the donations for church purposes and those for the sick and poor, whilst whoever put that text at the top was blessed with a sense of irony:—

OFFERTORY.

"*God loveth a cheerful giver.*"—2 Cor. ix. 7.

			£	s.	d.
Dec. 26.	M.	Sick and Poor	0	2	7
	M.	Church Expenses	2	19	2
	A.	Sunday School Fund ..	0	12	7
	E.	P.R.A.E.	2	19	10
31.		Midnight Service— Kingsdown Orphanage and Church Expenses	4	6	0
Jan. 2.	M.	Sick and Poor	0	2	5
	M.	Curacy Fund	2	18	2
	E.	" "	3	5	10
9.	M.	Sick and Poor	0	5	10
	M.	Day Schools	3	0	0
	E.	London City Mission ..	3	6	9
16.	M.	Sick and Poor	0	2	10
	M.	Deaconess Fund	3	2	2
	E.	" "	3	6	9

When will some Christians learn that charity begins at home?

Mr. Walter Emanuel must not be blamed because nature has denied him a sense of humour, but we confess to some irritation at his persistency in donning the cap and bells. Let us quote one or two of his recent jokes, and ask him to point out the faintest excuse for a cackle in any one of them. For instance, he makes M. Edouard Detaille excuse himself as follows: "Too worried." This abominable piece of grammar is not even the kind of pigeon English usually ascribed by humorists to foreigners. "Rise of river again driving me in Seine." Ye gods! We really must protest against being made to laugh so violently. We shall have pains in our ribs for the next fortnight. Then we have, "Mr. Asquith: Regret have other things to attend to. For example, Mr. Redmond. By-the-bye, please deny absurd rumour that reason why I was guarded by detectives while on Riviera was lest I should be stolen by dear friend and ally." Surely this is neither funny nor witty, nor even laboriously instructive. It is quite true that Mr. Asquith is engaged upon delicate negotiations with the Irish leader, but the only people sufficiently fond of him to want to kidnap him are obviously the Suffragettes. Next we have "Mr. Redmond: Sorry impending engagement—probably sharp engagement—with Mr. Asquith prevents." This, we should explain, is a play upon the word engagement. An engagement is not only a social duty, but, in military language, a conflict. Ha! ha! ha! So far, he has been merely inept. But later on he becomes vulgar. Look at this: "Mr. Lloyd George: An invitation addressed to the member for Foulmouth has been forwarded to me in error." Surely elementary good taste would have suggested that a public gathering of artists might be expected to include a few Liberals, and that their postprandial pleasure would not be enhanced by hearing accusations of foul language levelled at one of their leaders? Then, of course, he went on to indulge in a stale gibe on Mr. Ure, but surely a child would have thought of something more striking than to make him say: "I am not member for Sunderland. That is Mr. Storey"! We must not bore our readers by immortalising any more of these Emanuelisms. But where are the wits? What an age of mediocrity we live in!

The Ilford Council have decided against Sunday band performances in the park. According to one of the Councillors, whose appropriate name is Church, they "don't want a Continental Sunday in Ilford." Quite so—the Empire looks to Ilford to lead the way.

The young members continue to make their mark. One of the keenest critics in naval matters is Mr. Alan Burgoyne. He fired off a vigorous maiden speech, and is always ready with supplementary questions to the First Lord. In the course of travel around the world in search of more knowledge of men and ships, he reached Port Arthur; the Russians arrested him for possessing too much knowledge of their fleet, and he escaped by a miracle—*à la* Winston. He is editor of the "Navy League Annual," and, altogether, looks like "getting there."

As we anticipated, there was "no truth" in our statement that Mr. Haldane was contemplating resignation. In fact, "there never was a time when he had less desire to resign a place in the fighting line"—a sentiment which was received with "loud applause." It only now remains for Sir Edward Grey to say ditto. Next week we may have something more to say on the subject.

THIS WEEK'S CHESTNUT:—

Overheard in a County Council tram:—Lady Passenger: "Conductor, what are we waiting for?" Conductor: "The current's off, mum." Lady Passenger: "But the motor-'buses are going!"

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE HUMBUGS AT THE LONDON DIOCESAN BRANCH OF THE MOTHERS' UNION, WHO URGED THAT UNHAPPY MARRIAGES WERE A TRIAL THE ALMIGHTY INTENDED TO BE BORNE; AND THAT THE DIVORCE LAW SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For stating that, at a Mormon meeting, a hymn "was SUNG IN SILENCE,"

THE CORK ACCENT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "darkness was then approaching, so that he was MISSED WITHOUT HIS ABSENCE BEING NOTICED."

THE MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

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*For offering "*TAME WILD *ducks" for sale,*
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE GLASGOW EVENING TIMES*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that William Meredith, the Welsh football player, "has played every year against England from 1905 *to* 1910, EXCEPTING 1905 AND 1906,"

THE GLASGOW NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Japan is all hills and dales. And yet it is PRACTICALLY LEVEL,"

A WRITER IN *THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "accused was A WIDOW-DRESSER *by trade,"*

THE RAND DAILY MAIL (JOHANNESBURG)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Candidates for the L.C.C. Scholarships must be not OVER 17 NOR UNDER 25 YEARS,"

THE KENTISH MERCURY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "a competition was held for NOT FEWER THAN ONE *Female Learner,"*

THE SHAMROCK (DUBLIN)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a letter to the "Glasgow News," that he trusted "some more facile pen than mine WILL TAKE UP THE CUDGELS,"

"WEARY TRAVELLER"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the comet was seen by a resident in the HEAVENS,"

THE FOOTBALL ECHO AND SPORTS GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For replying, in their Programme, to a correspondent that "no more than two persons may skate TOGETHER SEPARATELY,"

THE PREMIER SKATING RINKS, CLAPTON, N.E.,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating in their booklet: "It is necessary to purchase a large bottle, price 2s. 9d., though the small bottle, price 1s. 1½d., is exactly the same BUT CONTAINS THREE TIMES THE QUANTITY,"

THE PROPRIETORS OF "LEVASCO"
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For the following amendment to a Health Bye-law: "Any person who shall throw, deposit, or place, or cause to be thrown, deposited, or placed, or (in the case of liquid) to flow, in or on any street, public place or any part of the town or town lands except in such places as are specially reserved for such purposes by the Municipality, any filth, slops, rubbish, stable litter, refuse, or any offensive or filthy matter of any kind, whether liquid or solid, or any dead animal, or broken crockery, or glass, or tins, shall be liable to a PENSION *not exceeding £20 sterling,"*

THE POTCHEFSTROOM TOWN COUNCIL
(per MUNICIPAL MAGAZINE)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

A "DREADNOUGHT" BUILDING SCANDAL.

HOW THE THAMES IRONWORKS ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR "DREADNOUGHT" CONTRACT.

When a short time ago, in answer to the persistent demand of some of the London Labour Members, the Admiralty placed a contract for one of the new *Dreadnoughts* with the Thames Ironworks Company, the main argument for the step was the employment of London labour. It will therefore come as a surprise to our readers to learn that the first thing done by the Company in the carrying out of its contract has been the placing of an order for a huge floating crane with a German firm—thus diverting upwards of £20,000 from the British labour market. This, however, is not the main consideration which prompts us to call attention to the matter. The erection of the crane will proceed for several months contemporaneously with the construction of the *Dreadnought*, and will involve the presence in the ship-building yard, at a very short distance from the *Dreadnought* itself, and under circumstances of peculiar advantage for taking careful observations, of a considerable number of German workmen. We say workmen, because undoubtedly every man who comes over from Germany to assist in the erection of the crane will be so described. But who shall say that amongst that motley crowd from the Fatherland there will not be at least one member of the German Secret Service Department?

Just consider for a moment what the position will be. As we write, we have before us a rough plan of the building yard of the Thames Ironworks, and from the position of the sheer legs—a *sine quâ non* of the erection of the crane—it is obvious that the German workmen, both on their way to and from work, will actually pass the *Dreadnought*, from which they will be separated by only a few yards all day long: whilst from the jib of the crane, as its erection proceeds, they will enjoy unique facilities for observing everything which goes on in the construction of the new battleship.

Of course, Mr. McKenna may say that the Admiralty discharged its duty when it stipulated that the new *Dreadnought* should be all-British made; and by one of those fine official subtleties with which we are familiar in the House of Commons, it will doubtless be explained that the Admiralty has no control over the works of the builders. We suggest, however, that before placing the contract with this Company steps should have been taken to ascertain that it was efficiently equipped for the performance of the work—or at any rate that any substantial new equipment should be carried out by British labour and with British material. Suppose this German-made crane should be "unavoidably" delayed in its completion! Suppose it should break down in the middle of its work

Just imagine a British firm being allowed in the shipyards of Hamburg or Kiel during the building of a German *Dreadnought!* What would the Emperor have to say?

Let it be borne in mind that the crane *must* be erected under expert German supervision, and that no British firm *would*, even if it could, assist in the work.

It is not as though any British firm were not capable of taking the contract. We have reason to believe that at least one firm of standing in this class of work went to great trouble and expense in tendering for the crane, and would have been prepared to give substantial guarantees for the due performance of its undertaking. As a matter of fact, we believe there was to have been a fine of several hundred pounds per week for any delay over the stipulated contract period. How is such a condition to be enforced as against a German firm?

On the whole, we cannot congratulate the Thames Ironworks upon the start it has made. Whether it will ever be able to carry out its contract without involving itself in heavy loss, is a matter upon which expert opinion is divided. It must clearly understand, however, that the building of a British battleship is not a matter of ordinary every-day commerce; and it must understand that after having been entrusted by the Government with this important contract, it has placed itself in a position of trust towards the British Empire, every citizen of which is entitled to scrutinise closely the manner in which the obligation is discharged.

It would be interesting to know whether there is any clause in the contract dealing with the admission of foreign workmen or contractors into the yard during the building of the ship—or whether the company is free to issue invitations wholesale to our naval rivals to come and watch the progress of the work.

Perhaps some new Peter the Great, disguised as a German labourer, may be amongst the staff who will come over to erect the crane!

We have no desire to embarrass the Company, but we call upon the Admiralty to keep a watchful look out. We believe we are right in saying that when placing the order, American guarantees for its fulfilment were declined—the Admiralty very properly insisting upon British sureties. Let it also insist that whatever may be the exigencies of the Thames Ironworks in the carrying out of its contract, they do not include the granting of permission to our chief naval rivals to roam over the works in which the money of the British taxpayer is being expended with a lavish hand for the protection of his shores against foreign invasion. On the purely labour aspect of the matter, we content ourselves with saying that even for the problematic advantage of saving a few hundred pounds, the Thames Ironworks Company would have been well advised to have placed their order for this huge floating crane—which will shortly be overhanging the new battleship—in the hands of a responsible and experienced British firm.

Question in Parliament.

The matter will have been mentioned in Parliament before this issue of our Journal is published, Mr. Bottomley having given notice of the following question:—

> To ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether he is aware that the Thames Ironworks Company, in order to complete the construction of the *Dreadnought* for which a contract has been placed with it, has found it necessary to order a special floating crane, and that such order has been placed in Germany, notwithstanding that a British firm of standing and experience had tendered for it; and seeing that its erection will be largely contemporaneous with that of the *Dreadnought* and will involve the employment of Germans with access to the building-yard during the construction of the battleship, what steps he proposes to take to safeguard British interests.

Members of all parties are evincing the keenest interest in the matter—it being felt that a very grave state of things has been unearthed. Mr. McKenna's explanations will be awaited with anxiety.

A CURIOUS CUSTOM.

It is a prerogative of Western civilisation that a proposal of marriage should issue from the man. Any other course would jar upon our sense of the fitness of things. But this is not the case in some of the more remote parts of the world. In the island of New Guinea, for instance, there exists a continual leap year, for woman does all the proposing. The New Guinea man, indeed, thinks himself far too superior even to notice a woman, consequently, the civilised order of things is reversed. When she has chosen a likely lover, the New Guinea maiden sends a piece of string to the lucky man's sister—or any other near female relative if he has no sister. Going to her brother, the sister says, "Brother, I have news; so-and-so is in love with you." If he is agreeable, a meeting is proposed, when it is at once decided between the pair whether they shall marry. There is no courting, no glow of romance to lighten up the future, nothing to look back upon when the marriage day arrives. It is as though the men of New Guinea have no time to waste on their sweethearts—not even to allow them to make love to them. The betrothal is immediately announced, the engaged man is branded on the back with charcoal, but the woman's mark of engagement is an indelible one, for it is actually cut into her skin. Should it happen that either of them afterwards decides to break off the engagement, nothing can be done unless in the way of personal chastisement to the faithless one. This seldom happens, however, and the prosaic wooing is generally followed by an equally prosaic wedding and an even more prosaic married life.

A LESSON FROM FRANCE.

The French peasant girl is often held up as an example to the English girl, of the same class, for her superior neatness in dress and appearance, her distaste of finery, and her thrifty habits. And there is no doubt that, generally speaking, the English girl is inferior to her sister across the Channel in all these particulars. But it is only fair to add that, from the very beginning of her life, the French girl has an advantage over the other. For as soon as she can understand anything at all, she realises that her parents are not only patterns of neatness and thrift, but that they exercise this thrift on her behalf. From the moment a daughter is born to them, indeed, the French parents begin to save up for her marriage. It matters not how poor they are or to what class they belong; when she is old enough to marry, their daughter will be given her *dot*, which often represents unceasing energy and effort on the part of her parents. If she never marries, the *dot* is hers on the death of her parents, and it can no more be taken from her than an actual birthright could be given to another person. Should she marry she still retains it for her own clothes, sometimes for those of her children. The remainder she puts on one side until it can be used later on to swell her own daughter's *dot*. Seldom, indeed, does her husband touch it. If he should have occasion to do so, he never rests until he has scrupulously repaid every farthing of it. In this way the French girl starts her married life with a certain standing of her own, which increases both her personal independence and her respect in the eyes of her husband. Certainly the English parent—who so often thinks it necessary to provide for the sons and not the daughters—might also in this respect take a lesson from the fair land of France. He would, at any rate, give his daughter a chance of proving whether she is really inferior to the French girl, or whether it is a case of starting with unequal advantages.

WINCHESTER HEAD SCHOOL.

ALLEGED DIVERSION OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

We direct the attention of the authorities of the Winchester Head School to the following statement, which reaches us from an Ealing reader:—

In your paper of March 5th you give a case where a poor little fellow was deprived of a scholarship. What is your opinion of the following case? The friends of a lad, a direct descendant of William of Wykeham, applied at Winchester Head School for his admission to a Foundation Scholarship instituted by his ancestor for members of his family in perpetuity. They were told that the funds for the scholarship had been diverted and appropriated for other purposes connected with the school. As a consequence the boy is thrown on the hands of his widowed mother.

SMALL HOLDINGS.

AN APPLICANT'S DIARY.

A correspondent applied to the Clerk of the County Council for a holding of ten acres. That was in October, 1907.

In December, 1907, our correspondent received a printed form to fill up with the same particulars as he had given in his letter.

In April, 1908, having heard nothing since the previous December, he wrote to the County Council asking if anything had been done in the matter. In reply, he received a printed notice from the land agent of the County Council Small Holdings Committee, saying that his letter had been handed on to him, but as he had only just been appointed to the position he must ask applicants to have patience.

In October, 1908, in response to another letter from our correspondent, he was requested by the agent to go and see him in his office in the county town, eight miles away. On our correspondent going to the office the agent took down exactly the same particulars as our correspondent had previously twice supplied, and assured him that he would do all he possibly could to expedite matters.

In March, 1909, our correspondent received a printed notice from the agent to appear before a sub-committee of the County Council at 11 o'clock in the County Hall. There were about 24 applicants to be interviewed, and after the Chairman had spoken to them all collectively, each one was interviewed privately. The Committee were, however, very courteous and nice, and the applicants left with the impression that their interests were safe in the hands of these gentlemen.

In April, 1909, our correspondent received a notice stating that the County Council approved of him as a suitable tenant for a small holding of ten acres, and that as soon as suitable land in the locality could be procured they would communicate with him.

In May, 1909, the land agent visited our correspondent, looked over the land already in his possession, and expressed himself as well satisfied. The gentleman asked our correspondent to let him know if any farms in the neighbourhood changed hands, as until then he could do nothing towards procuring the ten acres. Our correspondent replied that no farms had changed hands within the last few years, nor was there any prospect of such in the immediate future.

In February, 1910, our correspondent wrote to the land agent asking when he might expect his ten acres, and received in reply a letter to the effect that the agent much regretted that he had been unable to obtain land, but that when he was able to get suitable land in the locality he would be only too pleased to communicate with our correspondent at once.

Here we have an applicant asking for a holding in October, 1907, having to wait 17 months before the County Council considered his case at all; his application not finally approved until April, 1909, and he still waiting for his holding in March, 1910.

NOT IN IT.

They built a church at his very door,
He wasn't in it.
They brought him a scheme for relieving the poor,
He wasn't in it.
Let them work for their money as he had done,
They wouldn't go spending it just for fun,
But instead, be improving each idle minute,
He wasn't in it.
So he passed the poor with haughty tread,
He wasn't in it.
They didn't concern him, living or dead,
He wasn't in it.
When the good in the Halls of Virtue met,
He admired their goodness without regret,
The stake was too high for him to win it,
He wasn't in it.
But a carriage passed down the street one day,
And he was in it.
The funeral trappings made great display,
For he was in it.
St. Peter received him with Book and Bell,
"My friend, you've purchased a ticket to——? Well,
The elevator goes *down* in a minute."
AND HE WAS IN IT.

S. T. G.

"YER 'IGHNESS."

By Arthur W. Leverett.

Of the back-sliding and subsequent re-instatement of Alderman Odgers, one time Mayor of Shrimpton, the following is a true narrative.

Alderman Odgers, the pride and glory of the local Labour Party, its most powerful speaker and its only wealthy member, was the head of a large ironmongery and domestic store, situate in the market place; and in the year 1903 reached the proud position of Mayor of Shrimpton.

Although this was anything but a pleasing circumstance to the townspeople in general—who were mainly of a fine old crusted Toryism—to the party supporting Mr. Odgers, and to his own family, it was an event of immense and proud importance.

The town had, perforce, resigned itself to the inevitable, and was settling down into a condition of amused tolerance, when a piece of news caused a sudden and wide-spread dismay, and more particularly in the household of the Mayor. It was suddenly announced that the Prince had consented to come down to Shrimpton to open the new wing of the infirmary. Everyone was sensible of the honour thus conferred upon the town, but that it should happen during the Mayoralty of Alderman Odgers could only be regarded as an oversight on the part of Providence. Odgers, the red-hot republican! The man who had so often referred to Royalty as "battening on the working man," and to whom a title was as a red rag to a bull. Each of the sixty Town Councillors felt that Odgers was an impossible man to conduct an affair of this kind, and each of them knew very intimately the only man fitted to preside at such a ceremony. No one considered the difficulty in which the Mayor himself was placed. His party held a meeting, at which a resolution was passed calling upon the Mayor to be true to his Republican principles. Nothing was suggested as to how this was to be done, and the Mayor himself, after giving some vague and unsatisfactory answers to several very pointed questions, went home to consider how it was possible to avoid a public scandal, and at the same time to keep in favour with his supporters. Only two weeks remained to him in which to solve the problem, and at the end of the first week he was no nearer a solution. Finally, he decided upon steering a middle course, but he found the channel such a tortuous one that it seemed almost impossible to avoid running on the rocks.

After several days' seclusion, and the consignment to the waste-paper basket of an endless stream of paper, a short speech was produced, which he considered would meet the case. With the help of his wife and daughter, he at last committed it to memory. So did they, to his great good fortune, for when the critical moment arrived, his own memory failed him shamefully.

Mr. Odgers had never been reckoned as a nervous man—far from it; but on the eventful morning he felt an unaccountable trembling at the knees, which his wife assured him was not due to damp sheets. It was a beautiful July morning. He consulted the thermometer—it indicated a temperature of 75. He shook it—no effect! He then decided there must be a rawness in the air.

After breakfast the speech was rehearsed, and to his surprise and consternation he found he only *nearly* knew it. So until the time came to don the Mayoral robes, he worked his hardest at it, but still at the last moment, the words did not come as easily as they had done.

How he came through the actual ceremony he scarcely knew. It seemed to him one confusion of bell-ringing, cheering, and perspiring humanity from which he suddenly emerged and stood surrounded by his Councillors, facing the Prince, who appeared to be speaking—then a pause. Mrs. Odgers nudged him from behind. His speech, of course! His wife gave him the first line, and in a strangely unfamiliar voice it proceeded from him line by line, in jerks, as it came to him over his shoulder. It seemed endless, although he knew it was under 150 words. Again the cheers broke forth as the Prince shook his hand.

It certainly was a hot day, and when he reached home he collapsed into his arm-chair with a sigh of relief and feelings of mingled satisfaction and doubt.

Mrs. Odgers had no doubt at all.

"Your speech was splendid, John. I knew it would come to you."

"Over my left shoulder, eh?" he said.

"Oh father!" said Mabel, "suppose you get knighted! Mayors do generally after an affair like this."

Next morning the three local papers were eagerly scanned.

"The Mayor, in a few well-chosen words, returned thanks to His Royal Highness."

"The Mayor made a few appropriate remarks, and the ceremony ended."

These were disappointing, but they were at least not ill-natured. It was left to the organ of his own party, *The Tocsin*, to give him a really unkind cut.

"Our glorious Mayor, with his knees visibly knocking together, and the perspiration rolling off his face, jerked out, at the dictation of his wife, a speech of exactly 147 words, in which 'Yer 'ighness' occurred just twenty-seven times. This, too, from the man who has never tired of spouting his anti-Royalist principles. Surely this is boot-blacking in excelsis. If our noble Mayor expects a knighthood, he has certainly wallowed sufficiently in the mire to deserve one."

His Worship, after his night's rest, had sufficiently recovered his spirits and self-importance to feel this an absolute outrage upon his dignity. He had always stoutly maintained the liberty of the Press; but under certain circumstances there should be limits. He promptly wrote resigning the chairmanship of the club. Then he re-read his speech. The objectionable words only occurred eighteen times; perhaps, in his excitement others had slipped in.

During the next few days he was several times greeted by small boys in the street as "Yer 'ighness." He also noticed that some of his old Club friends showed a close and unusual interest in the shop windows when they observed him approaching. It was a considerable solace to him that possibly the man they were cutting was the future Sir John Odgers.

His wife, firmly convinced of her family's rising importance, had endeavoured to impress upon her daughter the necessity for breaking off her engagement to a certain Mr. Smith—"an excellent young man, my dear Mabel; but under the circumstances would it do for us to be connected, even in a wholesale way, with shrimps and winkles?" Mabel insisted that she could see nothing incongruous in pots and pans allying themselves with the shell-fish in question, and so signally failed to realise the superiority of her social position that her mother gave up pressing the question.

When several weeks had elapsed and no intimation of the knighthood came to him, the Mayor's new-born loyalty began gradually to cool, and Mrs. Odgers came to the conclusion that there was little faith to be put in Princes; they were all "part and parcel of an effete and rotten system." This was a quotation from one of her husband's most telling speeches. He beamed upon her.

Every day his former political opinions strengthened in him. He longed for a reconciliation with his old friends, and to be able once again to lash out at his old foes. He told himself that any other man in his position and holding his opinions would have done no better. This was doubtless true, and some of the more reasonable spirits in his party saw it quite clearly; they also saw more clearly still that without His Worship's financial assistance their club would very speedily come to grief. This undeniable fact being represented to the assembled members, it was arranged that a small deputation should wait upon the Mayor and ask him to let bygones be bygones. Two of the older members of the club, with perhaps a little less fire but with certainly a little more tact than the others, accordingly waited upon their late chairman, and after some amount of persuasion, which Mr. Odgers considered due to his dignity, he consented to re-join the club.

A dinner was arranged for the following evening, and everyone had a most enjoyable time. When the re-elected chairman rose to his feet and it was seen that he held a cheque in his hand, the cheers were deafening. They broke out again and again during his speech—a speech which thoroughly delighted the hearts of his old admirers. Royalty and the aristocracy went down like grass before the scythe. Mrs. Odgers could not have felt a prouder woman had her vanished dreams been realised.

The Tocsin, in a glowing report, spoke of "This delightful re-union after the recent little misunderstanding," and in due time was rewarded with a page advertisement. Alderman Odgers is known as a very even-tempered man, but it would still be a risky thing to allude to "Yer 'ighness."

OUR FIFTY GUINEA PRIZE

FOR THE BEST SUGGESTION FOR A NEW POSTER.

In response to our offer of a prize of Fifty Guineas for the best suggestion for a poster to take the place of our present mammoth painting on the Strand Island, we have received a large number of very ingenious ideas, which will be carefully examined, and we hope to be able to announce the result at an early date.

"LADY M. SOMERSET."

In the *Daily Telegraph* a little while ago there was a two column picture of a woman driving a pair of horses in a four-wheeled dogcart, having at her side a bulldog, and underneath the picture there is the following :—

> Lady M. Somerset and her bulldog support Mr. Hayes Fisher.

In the *Daily Sketch* of the same date there is a similar picture of the same person and her bulldog, underneath being the words :—

> Lady M. Somerset and her bulldog support Mr. Hayes Fisher by taking voters to the poll.

It would seem from these newspaper illustrations that Lady M. Somerset is an active politician who at the recent General Election worked valiantly for Mr. Hayes Fisher. But who is Lady M. Somerset? She says she is Lady Mercia Somerset.

Some months ago Lady M. Somerset, as she calls herself, was living at 9a, Hampshire Street, Camden Road, N., in two rooms over a stable, an unusual place for a member of a ducal family to reside. At this address she obtained certain goods and provisions from Mr. John Adams, provision dealer of 1, Brecknock Road, Camden Road, N. Mr. Adams is a well-known tradesman in the neighbourhood, born in the house in which he now resides, and carries on a business founded on the same premises by his father as far back as 1860.

In a short time Lady Mercia Somerset owed Mr. Adams £3 2s. 6d., and as he was unable to obtain payment he took out a summons. Lady Mercia Somerset did not appear, and judgment was given in due course, but when the bailiff tried to levy he could not get in. In due course Mr. Adams took out a judgment summons. Lady Mercia Somerset again failed to appear, and an order was made for her to pay £1 a month. Upon her default at the end of the month a Committal Order was obtained. It was then found that she had left Camden Road, and after some two months' search she was found in apartments in the Fulham Road. There she was served with a Committal Order, but pleaded that she was a married woman. Upon the bailiff wanting proof, and her being unable to give it, she took him to Somerset House. There she showed him a certificate which she said was hers. We have before us the memorandum of Mr. Samuel W. Merry, High Bailiff, to Mr. Adams, which runs as follows :—

> *Re* Lady Somerset.
>
> Mr. Hooper informs me that the following are the particulars taken from the marriage certificate. Maiden name Fricker. Married name Rogers. Married July, 1891, at Barton Registry, Bristol.

How the certificate of the marriage of a young woman named Fricker to a man named Rogers proves the woman with whom we are dealing to be Lady Mercia Somerset is not very clear. Anyway that was the information given to the Bailiff, who thereupon released Lady M. Somerset.

At the outset of these proceedings, when Mr. Adams was considering whether he would open an account with this person or not, he wrote to Mr. Arthur Newton, to whom she had referred him, and this is his reply, dated January 5th, 1909 :—

> We have your letter of to-day's date.
>
> We make a weekly allowance to Lady Somerset on behalf of a client, and in our opinion we should consider them good for a small amount, but as we make it a rule never to give references for clients, we cannot accept any responsibility in the matter.

The letter is less lucid than it might be, but, if we are to read it literally, it is Mr. Arthur Newton's opinion that Lady Somerset and a client unnamed are between them "good for a small amount." It will be noted that in his letter Mr. Arthur Newton refers to the woman as Lady Somerset, and as he did not put the words in inverted commas it would seem that he desires Mr. Adams to understand that the person in question has a right to that title. Mr. Adams seems to have taken a great deal of trouble over the matter. We have reason to believe that "Lady Mercia Somerset" owes a large number of accounts to the various tradesmen with whom she has been in the habit of dealing in different parts of London, and it is for this reason, and because we think we are doing a public service in warning the trading public against having anything to do with this person, that we refer to her and her dealings with Mr. Adams.

THE LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION AND ITS PENSION SCHEME.

AN UNDESIRABLE INNOVATION.

The Lifeboat Institution is one for which we have all a kindly regard. Its objects appeal to all, and its continued prosperity is a matter of almost national concern. But we regret to find that a very sharp division of opinion exists between influential members of the Institution, and unless these differences can be adjusted there will be disruption. The trouble has arisen over a pension scheme. Until now the officials of the Institution have not been entitled to pensions. They have received exceptionally high salaries on the distinct understanding that no pensions would be given to them, but largely at the instance of the Secretary, Mr. Dibdin, the Council have been induced to reconsider this policy. In the report, a copy of which we have before us, which was submitted at the Annual General Meeting on March 15th, we find the following :—

> During the year the Committee, in accordance with the now almost universal practice sanctioned a pension scheme for the permanent Headquarters Officials of the Institution on the lines of the system adopted in the Civil Service of the Crown. They had been urged to do so by many of the subscribers, and they were satisfied that in adopting such a course, which they felt was right and just, they had the fullest concurrence of the Governors.

This paragraph is misleading. The Committee had not the full concurrence of the Governors, nor have they that concurrence now. At the General Meeting there was a very strong opposition to the pension scheme, so strong that the recommendation was referred back to the Committee, and the report was not passed.

The opponents of the pension scheme contend that whatever its merits may be they have no right to acquiesce in the scheme without referring to their 200,000 workers, who at the present time work not to give pensions to highly paid officials, but to provide means of sustenance for the widows and orphans of the men engaged in the Life Boat Service. As for Mr. Charles Dibdin, the General Secretary, he was a chief clerk at the G.P.O. some twenty years ago; when the position of General Secretary was offered to him. He took it at a salary of £1,200 a year—*i.e.*, three times as much as he was getting, and this salary was offered him on the distinct understanding that it would carry no pension. In the natural order of things Mr. Dibdin, now a man of 60 or over, will soon be retiring, and his personal interest in the matter, and that of many other officials who have been with the Institution a great number of years, is obvious. For our part we cannot see how the Council can justify going away from the plain letter of their agreement with their officials and giving them pensions, in addition to the salaries they are now receiving. It has been said that pension is simply deferred pay, and that is true of the ordinary civil servants who accept a lower salary than otherwise they might be willing to take because they have the right, when they reach a certain age, to retire upon pension. In the case of these Lifeboat Institution officials there is no such right. The opposite system has been pursued, they having drawn big salaries from the outset, and it is not fair to the public who find the funds to support the Institution to ask them to provide the considerable sums that will be required in order to meet the pension scheme. It may be well to have a pension scheme, but it should affect only the officials appointed after its institution—and not those whose salaries have been based upon a no-pension policy.

A WORD IN SEASON.

The second annual report of the British representative of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada has been issued, and gives some interesting information on the state of industry in the Dominion. According to the report there are various agencies which are directly interested in persuading people to emigrate to Canada whether they are wanted there or not. Chief among these is the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which exists for the purpose of keeping up a surplus supply of labour in the industrial centres in order to prevent Canadian organised workers dominating the industries of the country. Many decent workmen have been lured to Canada to fill the places of men who were out on strike and were left destitute when they refused to do so.

CROW'S CAUTIONARY LIST.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

I glance every year at a delightful little red book, published by *Truth* (the sixpenny John Bull), giving the names and addresses of a variety of dangerous persons. Anyone who wants to be robbed, or blackmailed, or led into a really fine scrape, cannot do better than apply to all the persons specified therein. Indeed, if anybody annoys me very much, I think I shall send out a circular in his name inviting communications from all these sharks. What fun it would be to watch the letter-box or the breakfast-table of my victim after my bomb had exploded!

Meanwhile, it occurs to me that moneylenders, bookmakers, bucket-shop keepers, medical quacks, fee-snatching agencies, Spanish prisoners, and begging-letter writers are not the only menace to the comfort and prosperity of my countrymen. It may, therefore, be an act of philanthropy to enumerate a few of the prominent personages who now prey upon the public and secure a certain amount of admiration for their pains. The difficulty, of course, is one of selection, and I am now only beginning with a tentative list which may hereafter be supplemented in these pages—perhaps even (who knows?) find favour as a little red book at the end of the year. I need hardly say that suggestions will be cordially welcomed from my large circle of admirers.

Politicians.

1.—Asquith, Herbert Henry, might be described as a lath painted to look like iron. Trades on an affectation of bluntness, courage, and sincerity, but begins to wobble as soon as he has to face a serious situation. Is generally regarded as a mere cat's-paw in the hands of anyone who knows his own mind. Might become really dangerous if he were utilised by unscrupulous demagogues. Is appropriately employed in bandying compliments with

2.—Balfour, Arthur James, a political quack without conscience or convictions. Secured predominance by trickery, and has kept it by a process of bamboozling his followers. Frequently announces that he means to lead, but no one has ever ascertained whither. His idea of statesmanship consists in provoking endless debates about unimportant points.

3.—Cecil, Lord Hugh, nearly wrecked his career by a temporary adherence to principles which he is now abandoning under pressure. Represents the ecclesiastical mind, which may be very graceful in a cathedral, but is out of place on the hustings. Has a bad family history, and desires to bolster up the privileges of the descendants of ancient robbers.

4.—Chamberlain, Austen, another example of the evil of hereditary legislators. Was foisted into a high office as a compliment to his father, and was so frightened by the result that he spilled ink on his trousers when introducing a budget. Is now a mere parrot who repeats meaningless phrases about work for all and taxing the foreigner. Is chiefly dangerous as the advertising instrument of unscrupulous self-seekers.

5.—George, David Lloyd, has caused considerable damage to his party by the violence and recklessness of his language. Would be a very dangerous customer if he were ever allowed to act unchecked.

6.—Healy, Timothy Michael, a comparatively successful agitator, who always bites the hand that feeds him. Possesses a flashy cleverness and a vitriolic tongue which would be very dangerous to his friends if he had any.

7.—Milner, Alfred Viscount: This alien was chiefly responsible for the Boer war, and has lately enhanced his cheap notoriety by urging the Lords to flout the people and damn the consequences. Happily, however, the consequences seem likely to damn them and him.

8.—Rosebery, Archibald Philip Primrose, Earl of: This mountebank is now happily no longer taken very seriously. Enjoyed a brief opportunity for mischief as Premier, but has sunk into the fourth rank and contents himself with exhibitions of peevishness. Chiefly dangerous because his failures discourage other attempts at independence.

Warriors.

9.—Beresford, Lord Charles: A self-advertising Admiral, chiefly remarkable for indiscretion and ill-temper. Now attempts to cause mischief by blurting out secrets and putting indiscreet questions in the House of Commons.

10.—Roberts, Frederick Sleigh, Earl: Served with some courage but no great ability in various campaigns. Has consistently endangered national interests by the parade of his vanity. Is now lending his name to an artificial agitation for imposing conscription on the people. His power of mischief is considerably restricted by his inability to speak, or even to read typewritten MSS. in public.

Rulers.

11.—Austria, Francis Joseph, Emperor: Now a feeble old man, but a useful cat's-paw for a gang of reckless conspirators.

12.—Bulgaria, Ferdinand, Calling Himself Czar of: An ambitious Hebrew whose amazing good fortune has carried him through every danger and vicissitude. Boundless ambitions constitute him a standing menace to the peace of Europe. Is now engaged in vast intrigues for the foundation of a Balkan Empire.

13.—Karageorgevitch, Peter (Occupant of the Throne of Servia): Obtained his present position as an accessory to one of the most brutal murders in history. Is himself a drunken coward, but submits to be used as a pawn by the murderers of his predecessor. Has a mad son now temporarily under restraint.

14.—Young Turks: These old men treacherously overthrew their sovereign, and are now too busy accumulating treasure to inaugurate necessary reforms in their country.

Purveyors of Doggerel.

15.—Austin, Alfred: Holds the sinecure office of Poet Laureate, and has written a number of worthless lines, but has now happily joined a conspiracy of silence.

16.—Douglas, Lord Alfred: A scribbler of chaotic sonnets, with a strong taste for obscure journalism. If he had any readers, he would exercise an evil influence on literary taste.

17.—Kipling Rudyard: A ranting, blatant, bawling versifier, with no sense of decency of rhythm. Has traduced the British Army and civilising influences in India. Seems to have exhausted his welcome for the present, but may break out again at any time.

OUR HALF-CROWN SHARES.

EVERY "JOHN BULL" READER MAY BECOME A "JOHN BULL" PROPRIETOR.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Our sporting friend Mr. Lotinga has just successfully floated his *Weekly* by means of Five Shilling Shares—the issue having been largely over-subscribed. And what is the result? The paper has jumped instantaneously into a huge journalistic success—with a circulation almost as big as our own. There is no doubt that the spreading of a proprietary interest amongst the readers of a popular journal is the thing to do. Each of them can then say, with truth, "This is *my* paper." Even the Harmsworth people recognise this. Speaking of the recent issue of *Daily Mirror* shares, the *Daily Mail* says:—

> The fact that the distribution of shares will be made among as large a number of people as possible throughout the country cannot at this juncture be too strongly emphasised. The desire of the directors of *The Daily Mirror* is to have thousands of shareholders watching its interests in getting news, increasing its sales and advertisements, and participating in the profits; and, therefore, the small investor who applies for shares will be treated on exactly the same footing as the wealthier applicant.

Mr. Bottomley has therefore arranged to subdivide a limited number of shares into Half-Crown Certificates, to be issued amongst our readers.

Further particulars next week. In the meantime, tell all your friends about the matter.

THAT BOGUS "JOHN BULL" CLUB.

With reference to our paragraph of last week, we have received a visit from Mr. Neil Ramsay, who desires us to say that immediately upon the receipt of Mr. Bottomley's letter informing him that he could not permit the John Bull League, Glasgow, to be associated with a proposed so-called Club, Mr. Ramsay abandoned the scheme, and has no knowledge whatever of the Club to which our paragraph referred. The use of the name of the League, therefore, was exceptionally impudent; and we are still awaiting enlightenment as to why the Glasgow police thought it necessary to introduce it into their recent proceedings.

Robinson's Progress

From Shoreditch to Park Lane.

Robinson is the managing director of one of the biggest businesses in the Kingdom. His real name stands for that business, and everybody knows that he has made it out of his own brains.

Robinson moved into Park Lane last week. Now, it is well known that as a little office boy Robinson came up into the City from Shoreditch. So everybody wants to know how he made the journey.

Robinson makes no secret of the fact that it is the constant use and study of one book that has brought him from Shoreditch to Park Lane. All honour to him.

Robinson's First Start.

The firm where Robinson was employed as a boy had a set of the "Business Encyclopædia" lying about the office for the use of the staff. And Robinson, the boy, got into the way of going to it when anything puzzled him about his work.

There was a sudden row one day over a missing letter. There were other boys in the office, but it seemed to astonish the manager somewhat that little Robinson was the only one who was able to explain that under the Card-Index system this particular complication could not occur.

He was put in charge of the letters within a week, and henceforth everything ran like clockwork. Because every system of letter-filing is explained in the "Business Encyclopædia," as well as all details of office organisation and all business information whatever.

This incident convinced him more firmly of the value of the "Business Encyclopædia" to a youth who wants to succeed in business; and he determined to have a set of his own. He bought the "Business Encyclopædia" on the Publishers' famous system of easy payments.

Robinson came across this saying of a great man about this time: "I fear the man of one book."

He made up his mind that the "Business Encyclopædia" should be his one book, not merely by purchase as it was already, but by conquest—by taking everything in it for his own. It is probable also that he made up his mind at this time that his business rivals should fear him, later on, and as soon as he was big enough to have

Business Rivals.

They do fear him to-day—that is certain.

Meantime he was just a very ambitious head office boy. He took a steady course in practical book-keeping. He did not pay heavy fees to a Tutorial Business College; he studied his "one book" at night and wrested the whole art of book-keeping from it.

He got a clerkship on the strength of his book-keeping knowledge. But when he had been clerking quite a long while, it appalled him to consider what a number of men there were who, once becoming clerks, remained at the same dead level for the rest of their lives.

He knew there is a reason for all things, and he saw that nine out of ten of the men around him were fogged entirely as soon as any question outside of the beaten track of the day-book and the ledger arose. More than ever he was convinced that "Knowledge is power" in the business world, as elsewhere.

Before the yearly balance came on, he had grasped the fact that the Balance is the objective of all book-keeping. And so he was able, in the temporary absence of the auditor, to draw up a balance-sheet in a way that drew a compliment from the head of the firm; incidentally this caused a rise in his salary, at the end of the year.

Then he began to study the "Business Encyclopædia" through, page by page; and he took himself back over the ground regularly in order to show himself that he had not forgotten what he had learned.

There was consternation in the firm's office one morning when the news came that the old stager who had attended the County Court for years had dropped dead as he was going to sit down to breakfast.

But as Robinson was able to show that he knew all about County Court work—there are sixty-nine references in the Index under points connected with County Courts alone, and Robinson had mastered them all—he found himself in the County Court within an hour, and using the somewhat difficult County Court knowledge he had made himself master of, with the greatest ease in the world. Incidents of this sort happened frequently.

"The Man Who Knows."

Robinson was sent for as a matter of course when a difficulty arose; and as he studied his "one book" more and more faithfully and intelligently, he was always able to solve the difficulty.

Robinson's chance came at last—as it mostly does come to those who keep themselves ready and fit to take it, all talk about bad luck notwithstanding.

A certain department was in a very bad way—Robinson was made head of this particular department, the arrangement being that he was to be paid by results. He often declared that the next two years were the very hardest he had ever lived, not excepting those first two hard years when the ambitious little office boy came up into the City out of Shoreditch.

But the next change came suddenly. Robinson was made a partner. And as he was now able to put his own ideas into practice, success succeeded to success after this.

And so he moved into Park Lane last week.

Achievement.

It needs no special perspicacity to see that the cause of Robinson's business success up to this was due to the fact that he made himself master of all Business information.

Many men sat near Robinson while he was a clerk—they were equally conscientious, equally sober, equally punctual. Yet these men are clerks still and Robinson is one of the men at the top.

The practical moral of this slight sketch is—that if you want to make money in Business you must know all about Business. The "Business Encyclopædia" is the only work that covers all the knowledge that took Robinson from Shoreditch to Park Lane.

Two Opinions.

1. Messrs. J. S. FRY & SONS, LTD., BRISTOL:—"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work.

2. A CLERK'S OPINION:—Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.:—"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you POST FREE. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

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Clun House, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

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A PLEA FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS.

By Frederick W. Goldsmith.

Let us eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow
The Chancellor of the Exchequer annihilates us.

[*An eloquent plea for the great middle class—with some misconceptions about the working man.*]

Oh! for a tongue, loud, trenchant and insistent, even as of a prophet of old, to voice the cry of that great middle class who are just now in very truth being ground between the upper and the nether millstone. That great middle class which, amid all the mighty fluctuations which have accompanied—which, indeed, have accomplished—the growth of the English nation have ever stood firm, have ever proved themselves the last party in the State to lose their heads, the first to regain their equanimity. Looking backwards over the course of our nation's history, we seem to see this same great party—county families, yeomen, professional men, tradesmen—running through the revolutions, through the wars, through the upheavals and through the downtreadings, as one ever-continuous thread of quiet, homely grey, conspicuous because of its very quietness amidst the flashing reds, the brilliant yellows and the envious greens of a nation fighting out its own destiny.

And as the prophets of old mourned over the struggles of their people, so might we, were our voice inspired, tell of the heartbreaking vicissitudes which in the past the trend of circumstances forced upon this party. How through oppression from above and through aggression from below they have struggled to maintain their integrity and to preserve their possessions! How in this very struggle their characters were strengthened and their instincts refined, till in the fulness of time they stood—they stand—as the very embodiment of the best, of the most stable, of the best worth preserving of all our national characteristics!

The Backbone of the Nation.

And, oh! that we had the voice of the prophet, that we might call woe unto those who, in their mistaken zeal for the upraising of a less worthy and a less ready class, would crush the life blood out of this other class, which, by its own exertions and its own thrift, has achieved some little stake in the prosperity of the nation. Beware ye into whose hands has been entrusted the guidance of the destinies of this realm. Beware lest with your policy of fleecing and of pillage from those who have thus achieved some little, for the sake of the thriftless and the inept—beware, we say, lest you do a greater harm to the pith and backbone of the nation that you can possibly do good with your eleemosynary schemes of advanceme which are to replace the old-fashioned ideas of self-help and thrift. Beware! and be warned in time lest you find out too late that the second state of this nation is worse than the first—lest in trying to push forward against their will the laggards and the lazy, you kill that finer spirit of independence which has evolved during the centuries the middle class of the State. Of this be assured, that with all your costly machinery for the artificial forcing of the masses upwards, you will never create that spirit, that energy, that true development which the stress of individual character working incessantly against the hard conditions of life has produced.

The Upraising of the Population.

And if this costly machinery is to be produced at the expense of the next higher class, not only have you produced nothing of lasting value to the State, but you have engendered in an already valuable element of the State a feeling of unfairness, of injustice, which augurs ill for its future service. Statesmanship were well occupied with the upraising of the population, but for this purpose it must choose an outside fulcrum. It must not, in its effort to raise one class, depress another equally, if not more, deserving. Free education (at someone else's expense) is doubtless an admirable thing, but it will never bring to its recipients that full manliness of character, that self-reliance, that inherent stability of mind which has been engendered in those who, against adverse circumstances, have had to fight for their own education. Free boots, free clothing, free feeding are most excellent things for the needy children; but the children thus nourished at the expense of their neighbours will never feel the effect of that parental sacrifice, will never experience to the full the meaning of the word "home" as have, and as do, the children of the middle-class who are thus nurtured on mutual self-sacrifice and inter-family help. It is well, certainly, to educate the children and to clothe and feed such as really need it; but beware how you undermine that sturdy independence which for centuries has been the boast of the working classes.

Hot-house Methods.

Do not think, with all your hot-house methods, that you will in a generation or two produce a self-reliant population equal to the present middle class with their centuries of hereditary and personal endeavour. As the children of this generation are nurtured and fed on State aid, so the parents of the next generation will lean more and more upon State help in every possible function and emergency of life. Granted it is desirable to raise the status of the population; but are you raising them in the right direction? A weak-kneed, pap-fed, State-aided population is not likely to be of much use to the nation for its average daily life and work during the forthcoming centuries; nor is it likely to be of the greatest help in any national emergency.

At What Sacrifice?

And to secure this problematical advantage see what you are willing to sacrifice. A party whose only crime is having worked more hard and saved more carefully than their lower neighbours, and thus having secured to themselves a little more of this world's goods. For whether we speak of the present generation where many of us are working and striving to-day, or whether we speak of generations ago, when others worked and strove for us, still the keynote of the position is the same, and is comprised in the words "work and thrift." And we it is who, either by our own work or by the careful conservation of the work of our forefathers have thus thriven, are to be mercilessly robbed to patch up a false culture upon those who will neither work nor practice thrift.

Again, oh! for the voice of the prophet to cry aloud the wickedness of it; the waste of it. Ye are wilfully casting away the substance of an established culture of great use already to the State for the shadow of that culture which will never happen as a forced product of State charity. The upraising of the masses as a real vital fact of value to the commonwealth can only follow a determination of the people to help themselves.

By Work and Thrift.

Let us see for a moment just what is this great middle class of which we write. For purity of breeding we stand first of all classes of the realm. Lacking the wealth and the temptations of the higher classes and free from the promiscuous living of the lower classes, we boast a purity of descent for centuries almost without a stain. We have readily served the State in such positions as we could, and we have entered to no little extent into its government, into its churches, into its professions. We have paid our taxes and have prayed for our sovereign with the regularity of a habit. We have looked well after our dependants; and we have conserved our moderate estates, even though our incomes have been crippled. Granted we enjoy rather more of the good things of life than our lowlier neighbours, still these good things are ours by work and by thrift—lacking either of which virtues we should never have gained them, or should have lost them long ago.

The Present Position.

And, finally, what is our position now? To pay our way we have to work as hard as ever, while to preserve our own we have still to practise thrift with an instinctive rigour. The burden of the local rates presses upon us with an overwhelming pressure, and there is the constant call, so far never heard in vain, of private almsgiving and public charities. Then at every point of our living, of our business, of our amusements, the Imperial taxes touch us with irritating certainty; while, to crown all, the income-tax still stands at a war level in time of peace. It is peace, but not prosperity. Our businesses are declining, our incomes are falling; and yet the drain ceases not. The ordinary amenities of life are curtailed. Our young men dare not marry, our married ones dare not take upon themselves the responsibilities and the liabilities of parentage. It takes all their available means to maintain the children of their neighbours.

It is a terrible time for the middle class. Despair fast settles upon us, and the cry is: "Let us eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow the Chancellor of the Exchequer annihilates us."

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

March 21st.—Albert Chevalier.

It don't seem a day too much.—*Chevalier.*

March 22nd.—Earl De la Warr.

Fierce warrs and faithfull loves.—*Spencer.*

March 24th.—Dr. Emil Reich.

Here's Plato's man!—*Diogenes.*

The Modern Physician.

By Dr. ANDREW WILSON.

A trustworthy guide in all matters connected with health and physical well-being is a necessity at the present day. For it is now widely recognised that sound knowledge on this important point is not merely useful but essential for individual welfare, and also for the intelligent advancement of the physical interests of the nation at large.

Napoleon said that in war health was the first thing to be studied, but it would be more widely true to say that in all the business of life, health is the first and the most important thing.

"The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, covers the whole of this wide subject. It is a complete guide to the attainment and preservation of health. It is scientifically accurate, while it is written in a clear and popular style.

It is Absolutely Up to Date,

and embodies the latest medical and surgical teaching. A knowledge of the Laws of Health is now regarded as part of the education of every intelligent person; therefore, the section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as preventive medicine, includes the full exposition of the Laws of Health; and special attention is devoted to Physical Culture. Such topics as foods, beverages, air, exercise, clothing, sleep, baths, holidays, are all treated in this section. The consideration of general diseased states receives full attention; and a knowledge of such ailments as inflammation, dropsy, rheumatic gout is submitted. Fevers and infectious diseases are also treated of. Descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton, muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs and sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated. In this connection the coloured "manikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

First Aid or Ambulance Work.

A considerable amount of space is devoted to the teaching of "First Aid" or Ambulance Work, one of the most important movements of modern times, whereby the trained public is made capable of rendering efficient assistance to persons who have suffered from accidents. The sections of "The Modern Physician" devoted to the exposition of "first aid" principles are of the most complete character; in respect of such completeness, accuracy of detail, and also of wealth of illustration, "The Modern Physician" stands without a rival amongst similar works published in any country.

Synopsis of Contents,

which is greatly abridged, will serve to show how complete is its plan:

Health and Disease—The Nature of Disease, old views and new; Season and Disease, Occupation and Disease; Preventive Medicine. Personal Health—The Human Skeleton—General Diseases, their cause prevention and cure with latest systems of treatment. Fevers—Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment. The chemical composition of the body. The Body's microscopic structure; cells, the digestive system and digestion, the mouth, teeth, stomach, liver, etc. The skin—its structure and functions; regulations of lungs, skin and kidneys, the kidneys and the urinary apparatus. Diseases of the digestive system; diseases of the skin; diseases of the kidneys; animal parasites and the diseases they cause; the anatomy and physiology of the eye, ear, throat, etc. Ambulance or First Aid work—Directions for every emergency, hæmorrhage, wounds, drowning, foreign bodies in eye, ear, throat, etc. Sunstroke—Directions for carrying the injured, etc., etc.

The heart and the circulation of the blood—Diseases of the heart and of the blood; the lungs and the functions of breathing; diseases of the lungs; hygiene, cleanliness, beverages, ventilation, warming and lighting, sleep, drainage, etc. Structure and functions of the brain and nervous system; diseases of the brain and nervous system; infection and disinfection; the germ theory; the science of germ life (bacteriology); diseases of the bones and joints; tropical diseases; venereal diseases. The Family Medicine Chest—the classification of drugs; drugs, their action, uses and doses, used as drops, lotions, gargles, ointments, liniments, etc. The administration of medicines. Home nursing—massage, hydropathy and electrical treatments. Cooking for invalids. The adulteration of food and drugs.

The Health and Diseases of Women.

Another section of this work very fully treated by competent medical men, and women physicians as well, is that devoted to the special consideration of the Health of Women. This portion will prove of extreme value to mothers in guiding them to a knowledge of the principles which tend to regulate the health of their daughters, enabling them to grow up into healthy women. Volume V. is entirely devoted to the Health and Diseases of Women and Children; the Ailments of Infancy and Childhood, and the important subject of Midwifery being fully dealt with. Home Nursing is fully treated by an expert. To the information given regarding "Sick-room Cookery," a complete collection of valuable recipes is added. The section called "The Family Medicine Chest" will be found particularly useful. It describes the qualities, uses, and doses of drugs, used as drops, lotions, ointments, gargles, etc. And there is a splendid series of the Prescriptions of famous Physicians which will be found invaluable for the purposes for which they are prescribed.

The Book for the Home.

Although "The Modern Physician" makes no claim to be a complete substitute for the doctor, it is safe to say that in a large household embracing human items of every age or sex, the point of doubt or difficulty, the unexpected accident or emergency, could not arise that could not be immediately and satisfactorily dealt with, with this splendidly practical work at hand. And the intelligent father or mother who owns and makes use of this work, will save its cost in Doctors' Bills before it has been long in use. It is *the* book for the Home.

Two Opinions.

Rev. Ernest P. Luce, 15, Mount Pleasant, Wakefield:—
"I am thoroughly delighted with the work; my friends and I esteem it a remarkably accurate manual of medicine for lay use. We have found it quite correct in all its statements, and shall have no hesitation whatever in highly recommending it as a valuable possession to every family."

Mr. A. H. Hart, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:—
"Three things specially impressed me: The up-to-date character of the work; the simplicity of the language used; and the practical value. It is alike creditable to Editor and Publisher."

A FREE BOOKLET.

Our readers may obtain a beautifully illustrated little brochure, which will be sent post free to them if they will fill in the attached form. In it they will be told all about "The Modern Physician," and how they may obtain these five useful volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

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A "ZOO" SCANDAL.

A STRANGE BUILDING STORY.

It might be thought that a controlling body dealing with funds entrusted to it by the public, and having for its President the Duke of Bedford, and including the Earl of Cromer, could be trusted not to risk its money in hazardous speculation, or to seek the sanction of the Court of Chancery to certain proceedings upon a misleading statement of facts. And yet that is the position in which the Council of the Zoological Society of London stands to-day. Here are the facts :—

The Hanover Square Property.

It may not be generally known that the Society has freehold premises in Hanover Square. The Society's library is there, and there are scientific facilities of which scientists who are Fellows of the Society avail themselves. To be of any use to them, it is necessary that the office and library should be in some central position, such as Hanover Square, but about two years ago the Council proposed to sell the Hanover Square premises and to erect a new building in the Gardens of the Society for the purposes hitherto served by the older building. This became known to some of the Fellows, who thereupon gave notice of a hostile resolution, and in November, 1908, at the largest general meeting ever held, the proposal of the Council was almost unanimously rejected. But between then and the annual general meeting of last year active canvassing went on, with the result that at the annual meeting of 1909 there was a majority in favour of the proposals of the Council. The sanction of the Court of Chancery was sought and obtained, and the scheme is now in process of being carried out.

A Foolish Scheme.

A more absurd and foolish scheme we have seldom heard of. The premises in Hanover Square were bought by the Society in 1884 at a cost of £16,000, and £13,000 was spent on rebuilding and adapting. A firm of contractors, Godson and Son, of Kilburn, have now taken a three years' option to purchase for £30,000, and if they do not take up the option then they undertake to accept a 99 years' building lease of the premises at £1,200 a year. They propose to pull down the present building and to put up an hotel, but they are not bound to spend more than £10,000 on the building. There is nothing in the agreement effective to prevent their assigning their interest to somebody else. The Council is bound to accept the transfer unless it can show reasonable grounds for refusing it, so that it is quite conceivable that in the event of the Yankee Syndicate which is to run the hotel finding it an unprofitable speculation, the Society may have the building thrown on its hands. Meantime Godson and Son have been given the contract to erect the new building in the Society's Gardens, which, according to the best information available, will not cost less than £27,000. Now the Society rent these Gardens upon a yearly tenancy, and we should like to know whether the Duke of Bedford has ever granted a lease of his own property on similar terms. The scientists who use the present building will either not use the new one, or can only get there at great inconvenience, and nobody has been able to obtain from the Council, though many Fellows have tried, an explanation of why they have decided to sell their Hanover Square building upon such strange terms and to erect another which nobody wants. It is, indeed, stated by the Secretary in a circular sent round to the Fellows, that the premises in Hanover Square are unsafe for habitation, but that can hardly be, seeing that in 1884, when the Society bought the premises, £13,000 was expended in putting them in complete order, and the Secretary and his family are still living at the top of the building, and the meetings and business of the Society are being carried on there precisely as before.

The Society a Charity.

Surprise may be felt that the Court of Chancery should have consented to proposals so wild and foolish, and it may be asked, what about the Charity Commissioners? The Zoological Society is a charity, and obviously if any moneys received by the Society at its Gardens were part and parcel of the sum paid for the Hanover Square buildings they should not be parted with without the consent of the Charity Commissioners, and nobody who knows that body will believe that they would give consent to such a ridiculous transaction. And here we are bound to say that the Council of the Zoological Society have acted in a somewhat disingenuous way, to say the least of it. They had to go before Mr. Justice Warrington to obtain approval of the scheme. It was unopposed, and there was no very close examination of it, but it was necessary for the Secretary to prepare an affidavit in support of it for the consideration of the judge, and in that affidavit it was stated that the Gardens' receipts and subscriptions are all paid into one common account, but that the annual Garden receipts have, except in two years, always been insufficient to meet the outgoings, so that the net income from the Gardens shows a deficit, which deficit has to be made good out of the subscriptions. If the revenue of the Gardens had in any way been applied to the purchase of the Hanover Square premises, then they could not have been sold without the consent of the Charity Commissioners. The object of the affidavit was to prove that no part of the moneys expended in the purchase of the Hanover Square premises came from this source, but the affidavit rests, as we are informed, on a basis that is misleading.

What Ought to Have Been Done.

Be that as it may, the whole transaction is inept and indefensible to a degree. If the Council wished to sell the premises in Hanover Square, and were able to persuade the Fellows to give their consent, then surely they should have sold outright to a responsible person and have done with it, instead of giving a three years' option, and the right to pull down the premises, and to put up a hotel which in a year or two may be financially a miniature edition of the "Piccadilly." If the Council had persuaded itself that it was desirable to put up a building to take the place of the one in Hanover Square, then ordinary prudence required them to obtain security of tenure before spending a pound upon the construction. But not only have they disposed of the building in Hanover Square upon terms which compel them to go to the Bank for the money to enable them to put up their building in the Gardens—money for which they have to pay 5 per cent.—but they are putting up the building upon land on which they are merely yearly tenants, from which they might be ejected before the roof is finished, and if at any time they require to draw upon their assets they will find it impossible to raise a penny upon a structure on which they have spent £27,000.

Mr. Justice Warrington's Order.

We cannot doubt that if the Fellows as a body had realised what it is the Council proposes to do they would have vetoed the reckless suggestion. It is quite possible that the Order of Mr. Justice Warrington authorising the scheme is invalid on the ground that material facts were withheld from him; and also that the consent of the Charity Commissioners was necessary to the scheme. It is indeed surprising that men like the Duke of Bedford and Lord Cromer should have allowed themselves to become responsible for such proceedings, the more so if, as we are assured, the Duke of Bedford gave a pledge to the Fellows that the Council would further consult the Fellows before taking an irrevocable step.

REFORMED RHYMINGS.

There was an old lady from Leicester
Whose bed was an old-fashioned teicester
And twice every day
To her maid she would say
She would lie down upon it and reicester.

There once was a Whitechapel rough
Who fancied himself up to snough;
This rascal so shady
He sneaked from a lady
The purse she concealed in her mough.

A smart young policeman in blough
His nefarious conduct saw through;
Had cunningly spied,
And arresting him cried,
"This 'ere sort of conduct won't dough."

A farmer who followed the plough
Was tossed by a furious cough,
And when poised in the air
Was heard to declare,
"It was I who commenced this 'ere rough."

W. M.

Some Wonderful Bargains!

TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE.

Now that we are so close to Easter the columns of the various newspapers are being filled with the advertisements of those philanthropists (!) who make a habit year by year of selecting different seasons—Christmas, Easter—to give away their wonderful presents. They charge something, naturally, but not in order to make a profit—oh, dear no! Simply so that they shall not lose too much over the paper and string. Of course, as they say themselves, for the rest of the year they are business houses purely and simply. But during these holiday times these poor people seem to go mad. They scorn profit—don't want it. The pleasure that they get from making people happy by presenting them with those marvellous gifts seems to pay their rent. All that they want is to know that the public are—to use a slang expression—doing themselves a bit of good.

Is it not absurd—on the face of it—that firms established for the purpose of making a profit should lose money at one season of the year more than at any other? The whole matter can be explained in one of two ways. Either these great "bargains" are not bargains at all, the goods not being worth the money charged, or, secondly, the purchasers of articles other than the ones advertised have to pay more in order to make up for the loss. Probably the former is the correct answer.

Anyhow, whichever way you look at it, it is unfair trading, and newspaper proprietors should not countenance this class of trading by allowing the advertisements of such firms to appear in their columns.

Perhaps the greatest culprits are to be found amongst the lower class of hire-purchase house furnishers. Not that the hire-purchase system should be run down—as a system—but to make it quite clear to all readers of JOHN BULL, the system is good and useful. It is the abuse of the system by low-class firms that the public should beware of. The readers know that it is not right to hold a brief for one firm more than another, provided that everything is straightforward and above board, but when the public are supporting—through lack of knowledge—firms that cannot—or will not, it is the same thing—give fair value for money spent, it is only wise therefore to point out to them exactly what they are doing.

There are firms that do a straightforward and high-class business on the Gradual Payment System who must not be confused with other houses that turn out shoddy and roughly-made furniture. Without doubt, the first house in the trade is the Midland Furnishing Company, Limited, of 15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C.

Speaking of the Midland Furnishing Company, perhaps it would not be out of place to give a word of praise to their business methods. They are beyond reproach. No scandal or suspicion of sharp dealing has ever been associated with their name.

Their gradual payment system is simplicity itself. You select your goods—everything is marked in plain figures—and you can extend your payments over one, two, three or more years without any extra charge whatsoever. If you live too far away to make a personal selection, write for their free guide and catalogue, and select from that. They ask for no deposit, and, under no circumstances, is any interest added. If you live in the country, but prefer to come to town to select personally, the firm pay your fare upon any order of £30 worth and upwards.

They plan and lay carpets and linos free, and pack and deliver goods without charge. Should you prefer to pay cash they allow you 5 per cent. discount.

In order that those setting up house-keeping should be able to furnish their homes to advantage, it is essential that the goods should be properly shown. In too many cases—and with firms extensively advertising their wares—the would-be purchaser finds that he or she visits the "emporium" that the furniture is so crowded up that it is next to impossible to obtain more than a cursory inspection of what, once it is chosen and delivered, must for a number of years be associated with the daily life of the purchaser. An article of furniture that is not thoroughly approved at first will have become an eyesore long before its utility is exhausted.

The Midland Furnishing Company, with their acres of showrooms at 15 to 23, Southampton Row, W.C., are in a position to display their goods to the greatest advantage, not merely from their own point of view, but from that of the purchasing public. The goods are not stacked up or jumbled together. The would-be purchaser has only to stroll round and inspect the well-arranged suites, each article in its place, so that wife or husband can tell at a glance how it will look when transferred to their own apartments.

The kitchen, dining-room, drawing-room, bedroom—each has its place assigned in the Midland Furnishing Company's extensive premises, and there is variety to suit all comers. There is no deposit to pay, unless it suits the purchaser to do so. Any and every article chosen will be delivered entirely free of expense, and without the buyer being asked to put his hand in his pocket for anything.

This enterprising company are not satisfied with simply dumping the goods in your hall, for a feature of their business that will be appreciated is that their workmen have instructions to lay down carpet and lino if required.

What a saving of trouble this means anyone who has ever had a "moving job" will freely appreciate.

Every article is ticketed in plain figures, another pleasing feature of this firm's method of transacting business, and all the purchaser need do is to select his furniture and then arrange his terms. Should he desire to spread the payments over three or more years, his wishes will be the Midland Furnishing Company's law. Or he can pay in one year or two years, should that suit him better. Anyway, whatever credit he takes absolutely no interest or extra charge whatsoever is made. He who pays cash will get 5 per cent. discount allowed in addition.

Dealing on such liberal lines, it is not wonderful that the Company's enterprise has built up a tremendous business, and the stock on view at 15 to 23, Southampton Row, W.C., is so quickly cleared out and renewed that there is never any old-fashioned stuff to be got rid of. Everything is thoroughly seasoned before the furniture is made, but once it leaves the factory for the showroom, it soon finds its market, so that the Southampton Row showrooms, spacious as they are, have to be constantly replenished.

Every taste, from the most simple to the most luxurious, can be and is accommodated by the Midland Furnishing Company. Those content to start housekeeping in a modest way will find their wants supplied most satisfactorily, and even the least expensive suites are strongly made and show a finish that is no less remarkable than gratifying, while the mansion is as well catered for as the cottage, and there is no class that will not find its wants supplied.

The samples of furnished flats will appeal to a large and growing class of people, for there can be no doubt that the flat has come to stay. Large or small, these suites are always ready for inspection at 15 to 23, Southampton Row. There will be found suggestions enabling undecided purchasers to make up their minds as to the arrangement of furniture, but the would-be buyer can dispense with any of the articles shown, or substitute others, according to his individual taste. Each furnished room as it stands has a price fixed to it, and what the entire flat is destined to cost the occupier can be seen at a glance. This also applies to other suites—in one room can be seen luxurious furniture easily running into four figures, while there is a gradually descending scale until the working-man's home is reached, everything absolutely of the best according to the price to be paid, and all to be delivered promptly without preliminary payment being demanded.

Do not forget to write for their free guide and catalogue, and whatever you do don't forget their address, 15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C. Call and look round; say JOHN BULL has sent you. They will be delighted to show you anything you like, without any obligation to yourself.

AN APPEAL FROM LONG GROVE ASYLUM.

TWELVE MEN, DECLARING THEMSELVES SANE, PROTEST AGAINST DETENTION.

We have received the following remarkable document which we publish without at the moment expressing an opinion upon its merits :—

Long Grove Asylum, Epsom,
March 9th, 1910.
Patients' Reg. No. 1350.

Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned Britishers and subjects of King Edward VII., do humbly ask you to use your influence through the medium of your publication, John Bull, to bring before the public the terrible position in which we find ourselves, owing to the system of making lunacy, carried on in this place (Long Grove Asylum), by which means we are defrauded of our liberty and the ratepayers of their money.

We are all who sign this epistle sane men, and under the present false system of wilfully representing us as persons of unsound mind are incarcerated in this vast municipal White Man's Compound.

We have no hope of shaking ourselves free from this fearful and infernal system of stigmatizing ourselves and families with insanity, the result, alas! of the trade done by observation workhouse wards and London County asylums. We are not insane, but in our present position are, in many cases, only white slaves doing useful work in this institution, without pay.

It is useless of us writing to the Lunacy Commissioners or to the Home Office, as all correspondence is tampered with.

We are in a far worse position than the slaves in the worst days of American slavery. Treated as nonenities, compounded like cattle, half starved and weakened, in many cases, through drugs and castor oil. On visiting days everything is made to appear the very quintessence of humanity, but the gruesome scenes we could tell of what occurs within the walls of this municipal Bastille would make Englishmen ashamed of their freedom-loving country should we speak our minds somewhat freely. We are placed in cells called side rooms for 10, 20 or even 30 days, and should we have visitors they are not allowed to see us. The so-called increase in lunacy is all bosh. Men are kept here until the mind breaks down with the fearful monotony, and their friends are fooled into thinking it is the disease. In fact we are nothing more than live white flesh for the medicine men to practise on. We that sign ourselves to this appeal are, as I said before, sane men under lock and key, classified as lunatics and living our lives here among all forms of imbecility at the mercy of attendants, doctors and so-called friends outside who may wish for us to be detained.

Help us in the name of God ere it be too late, and free us from this fearful living tomb.

1. Henry Bushnell, 1350, Private Patient.
2. D. J. Crawley, N.1 1556.
3. J. Molison, N.1 Ward.
4. Wm. Allenby, N.1 Ward.
5. W. Howlett, N.1 Ward.
6. J. Johnson, N.1 Ward.
7. Henry N. Feltham, M.1. Ward.
8. A. S. Douglas, M.1 Ward.
9. John Berryman, M.1 Ward.
10. W. O'Leary, M.1 Ward.
11. John Cosh, N.2 Ward.
12. George Whitney, N.1 Ward.

PRECEPT AND PRACTICE.

There was quite an interesting interview with General Booth in the *Daily News* two or three days ago. Religion, he thinks, has become a matter of form instead of a living, breathing, active principle—a withered husk, a dead shell, and the man in the street has thrown it away. It is a difficult thing, the General says, to keep up zeal and passion and sacrifice. One of the dangers of the Salvation Army is that of settling into a rut, and the General is constantly on the look out for new methods to avoid this. What is needed is that Society should stop and look at itself and ask how it happens that things are as they are, and what is going to be the end of it all. There was much more in similar strain, and the interviewer left the General's presence impressed with the holiness of the good man.

We have received the following letter :—

> In October last my brother, C. E. C., bought an annuity from the Salvation Army for £700. Seeing that my brother had acted without advice, and was in very delicate health, the Salvation Army should not have taken the money. In December my brother died, thus losing all. The General was appealed to to return some of the £700 to pay funeral expenses, nurses, etc., if nothing more. But absolutely refuses to refund a penny. This is the General's Christianity!

Well, it seems pretty poor Christianity, and when, with this letter fresh in our mind, we read General Booth's talk with the interviewer it made us smile.

THE COMING BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS.—MR. SYDNEY BUXTON'S MASTERLY INACTIVITY.

Apart from the question of dormant balances and unclaimed securities in the hands of bankers, there can be no question that there is a vast accumulation of unclaimed deposits in the hands of gas, water and telephone companies, and also of unclaimed dividends in the possession of joint stock companies.

Mr. Bottomley has, therefore, been interrogating the President of the Board of Trade upon these subjects, but so far without any very satisfactory result.

So far as gas and water companies are concerned, Mr. Sydney Buxton says he has not at present any information which would lead him to think "that legislation is required." We should have thought it was common knowledge that such companies had in their possession large sums representing the balances of deposits made by customers when originally obtaining their supply, and it is to be regretted that the President of the Board of Trade has not thought it worth his while to make enquiry into the matter.

The same remark applies to joint stock companies' unclaimed dividends. Mr. Buxton says he "does not think that any useful object would be served by requiring joint stock companies to set out as a separate item in their balance sheets the amount of unclaimed dividends in their possession"!

Mr. Bottomley also enquired about the vast amounts forfeited by the working classes every year in the shape of lapsed policies in industrial assurance companies, but the reply of Mr. Buxton was that he would like first to give a "fair trial to the Act of last year"—which, it may be mentioned, has no bearing whatever on the subject.

Upon one matter, however, we have succeeded in obtaining more satisfactory assurances. In answer to a suggestion to the Postmaster-General that when taking over the National Telephone Company the Government should keep an eye on the Unclaimed Deposits in its possession, Mr. Herbert Samuel has given an assurance that the point shall not be overlooked. We have reason to believe the sum is a considerable one.

Our plea for better business methods in the Post Office is bearing fruit. Perhaps Mr. Herbert Samuel, the new Postmaster-General, has taken it to heart. Here is a testimonial from one of our readers :—

"Some Government officials are moving at last. At Telegraph Street, where one used to have to go to four different counters in order to get bills stamped (blank), it is now done in one operation. Evidently a 'business man' there. Hooray!"

From *The Scotsman* we gather that Mr. Maconochie, who contested the Partick Division at the late General Election, in the course of a recent speech says, in reference to the Fiscal question, "It was not a political question . . . and the time has come for giving the opportunity of applying business principles in the management of the affairs of the nation." We observe that this sentiment was, as usual, received with loud applause.

THE FIRST BANK FOR WOMEN.

We have constantly commented upon the enterprise of Farrow's Bank—the now famous "People's Bank." It has now instituted the first Bank for Women—a bank conducted for women by women. The new departure has been opened at 29, New Bridge Street, Ludgate Circus, E.C., where Miss May Bateman, the well-known authoress and economist, and a staff of ladies are in charge.

The note of the new movement is that women as well as men should have their own accounts, use their own cheque books, and generally adjust their domestic, trading and other financial affairs at the hands of business women, specially qualified for looking after their interests. The new departure has excited enormous interest, and already it promises to be extremely popular with the fair sex. We advise our lady readers to call upon or write to Miss Bateman, at the address given, for further particulars of this excellent and timely project.

Remarkable 10-Minute

"MER-SYREN HEALTH-LESSONS"

at BOOTS' and all other Leading Chemists To-day.

The whole of the people of the United Kingdom are now able to make personal trial of the remarkable "10 minute Mer-Syren Health-Lesson," which has made a great stir in the West-End of London.

This "Health-Lesson" is now to be a national one, for every Boots' and other up-to-date Chemist's in the land is taking part in the distribution of the wonderful Mer-Syren cure for Biliousness, Indigestion, and Nervous Headaches.

To-day the chemists' counters should be besieged with ladies and gentlemen who would like to know how to banish Biliousness, Indigestion, and Nervous Headaches "at 10 minutes' notice."

For how few there are who do not suffer more or less often from that sluggish condition of the stomach or bowels which is one of the prices we pay for our manner of living to-day. Many, of course, have had recourse to pills and purgatives.

The new Mer-Syren cure is neither. A 1/1½ packet contains 6 powders; a 2/9 packet 20 powders. Each powder is rather less in quantity than could be pinched between the thumb and finger. The manner of taking this powder is just as simple and easy as it could be. Place it on the tongue and then drink a cup (or less) of hot tea, coffee or milk—or even water.

And in 10 minutes—no more—your symptoms of Biliousness, Indigestion, or Nervous Headaches will have acted in accordance with the Mer-Syren notice to leave.

And this will have been accomplished in a perfectly harmless and gentle way. There will have been no signs or sounds of strife within.

For Mer-Syren is not provocative of strife. It is the strife that attends the operation of pills and purgatives which does such deadly damage to the delicate internal tissues and nerves of the stomach and its sister-organs.

Ask the man or the woman who has been a victim of constipation for some years if pills and purgatives have not actually done them grievous harm. They—although of greatly weakened constitution—find it necessary to take 3 or 4 pills where a strong healthy man would find one sufficient.

This is because the stomach and bowels have been sapped of their strength by the violently weakening action of the pills or other purgatives. That is why the new Mer-Syren 10-Minutes' Cure is winning its way—and will please you, too.

Try these wonderfully quick MER-SYREN Powders. They cure Biliousness, Indigestion, and Nervous Headaches, by taking them with a Cup of Hot Tea, Coffee or Hot Milk, so that in the time stated you will Feel Bright and Well Again. Get a 1/1½ or 2/9 Packet from your Chemist or Stores, and if within 10 minutes you are not freed from Pain or Discomfort send back what is left and your money will be returned in full. No such offer has ever been made before.

If Bilious or Liverish	If your Digestion is Weak	If Nervous Headaches
In 10 Minutes' Time MER-SYREN will	*In 10 Minutes' Time MER-SYREN will*	*In 10 Minutes' time MER-SYREN will*
Banish your Sick Ideas.	Balance the various digestive juices,	Restore activity to the excretory organs.
Drive away your Dullness.	Get rid of "undigested" particles of food.	Remove the delayed accumulations, and ensure normal habits.
Clear your Vision.	Brace up the muscles of the stomach.	Cleanse the organs of all impurities.
Renew your Interest in Life.	Awaken the natural muscular and chemical activity of the stomach.	Remove from the blood-channels all poisonous waste matter.
Cleanse your Tongue.	Put the stomach into a condition to deal with all kinds of food without distress.	Stop that dull and heavy headache, and restore buoyancy to the feelings.
Sweeten your Breath.	Relieve stomach distension and the accompanying symptoms of heart palpitation.	Make you bright, youthful, and increase your physical strength.
Remove "that yellow look" from your face.	Banish all feelings of flatulent fulness.	
Brighten your facial appearance.		

Sir J. W. CAMPBELL, C.B.
Park Place, St. James's, S.W.
Feb. 1st, 1901.

"Please send me another box of Mer-Syren Powders. I have been a great sufferer from Biliousness and Indigestion for some years, and I find that they are the only remedy which gives me relief."
(Sir) J. W. CAMPBELL, C.B., Maj.-Gen.

29, Chapel Street, St. Helens.
13th December, 1909.

For many years my daughter was a sufferer from *Indigestion*, *Biliousness*, and *Dyspepsia*, in their most acute forms. I purchased a packet of Mer-Syren, and from the first dose we noticed a distinct improvement.
CHAS. E. HUGHES.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
Leinster Square, Hyde Park, W.
Feb. 10th, 1910.

"I write to let you know that after being a sufferer from acute Indigestion and Dyspepsia, and having tried innumerable remedies with no avail, I have effected a complete cure of my complaint after taking eight days' treatment of your wonderful Mer-Syren Powders."
(Signed) (Hon.) DANIEL O'CONNOR K.C.S.G., J.P.
(ex-Postmaster-General, N.S.W. Australia)

Welbeck Avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool.
Aug. 10th, 1909.

"I have found Mer-Syren promptly cured my bilious attack when all other remedies failed. Before Mer-Syren was recommended to me, my life was miserable."
Mrs. J. P. CALLAGHAN.

Free Personal Health-Lessons.

The Mer-Syren Co. will be glad to have you test for yourself the truth of all that is being said about this marvellous and effective 10 Minute cure. To all who apply, enclosing 2d. in stamps to cover postage, they will send a trial packet of Mer-Syren by return of post. If you feel that your case is an unusual one, you can have a "Personal Health-Lesson" free of charge. Simply state your case when sending for the trial supply of Mer-Syren, and the latter and Special Health Advice will be sent together.

Apply to-day to your chemist for a 10-Minute "Health-Lesson." He can supply you with either the 1/1½ or 2/9 size, or you can, if you wish, order direct from the proprietors:—

The Mer-Syren Co., 17, 18, 19, Cockspur St., London, S.W.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To His Majesty King Edward.

Sir,—With highest respect I venture the liberty of informing your Majesty that on making an application for relief to the Windsor Guardians an elderly woman stated that her son, now nearly 23 years of age, was receiving only 10s. a week as a labourer on your Majesty's farm at Shaw. "I understand," added a relieving officer, "that the lad was first taken on as a half-timer at the wage of 1s. 6d. a week, and had received a shilling rise yearly." If these statements are true, it is impossible that your Majesty can be aware of the facts, and I know that you will peremptorily instruct the land steward to correct his management.

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Prime Minister.

Dear Mr. Asquith,—Just a line to wish you a pleasant—if a short—Easter recess. You are in for a warm time when you come back; but, if what I hear is true—and it usually is—you will not be sorry to be relieved at an early date of your present responsibilities. How you have kept your team together so long passes my understanding.

John Bull.

To His Highness Prince Albert, Monaco.

Prince,—Alarming news reaches me that a revolution is about to commence in your dominions through the demand of a number of the national laundrymen and road-sweepers for a Constitution and appointment as croupiers at the gaming tables of Monte Carlo! I am writing to request that you will refrain from advancing your army of 126 men against the stronghold of the insurgents until all the resources of peace and patience have been exhausted. It would be frightful to complicate the European situation.

What says the Mayor? Last time I saw him, he was digging up 'taters in the garden of a friend's villa.

John Bull.

To Howell Cuthbertson, Esq., Coroner, County Glamorgan.

Sir,—My attention has been called to the report of an inquest over which you presided the other day, touching the death of Mary Lewis, a married woman, who met with fatal injuries by being thrown from a trap—on a Sunday. In summing up you made the cynical observation that if the unfortunate woman had gone to Church or Chapel the accident would not have happened. "People," you said, "now made a holiday of Sunday'" and presumably you looked upon this poor woman's death as a special visitation of Providence. Not a word of sympathy appears to have escaped your lips—until the jury suggested it—for the unhappy husband who is left behind with a young family to bring up. Do you really think the Almighty had any objection to Mary Lewis taking a drive on that Sunday, with her husband, to see her sister? And don't you see what an idiotic fool you make of yourself by uttering such claptrap?

Just look at the evidence. It was whilst the woman's husband and the driver had gone into an inn to get some refreshment—leaving her outside in the trap—that the accident which caused her death occurred. Didn't it occur to you as strange that, in these circumstances, Providence should have preferred to kill the woman, whilst allowing the wicked men who not only desecrated the Sabbath, but actually went into a public-house to drink, to escape scot-free? You even went out of your way to declare that the driver of the trap was in no way to blame.

It is men of your type who bring ridicule and contempt upon the administration of the law, and it is a lucky thing for you that I was not in the neighbourhood with my whip when you made that scandalous observation.

John Bull.

To Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, Editor, "British Weekly."

Dear Confrere,—Though you disclaim any authority to speak on behalf of Nonconformists, I notice your statement that "so far as we know, their enthusiasm for the Government is nearly worn out." Though I disclaim all authority to speak on behalf of the Government, I venture to say that their enthusiasm for the Nonconformists is nearly worn out. Pity it lasted so long.

John Bull.

To Sir Charles McLaren, M.P., House of Commons.

My Dear Charley,—I notice that you are anxious to give legislative effect to a proposal that married women without personal means should be entitled to a fair wage. Every labourer is worthy of his hire; and when a man takes a woman to wife and turns her into a housekeeper, a washerwoman, a window-polisher, a step-cleaner, a cook, or a nursemaid, I incline to think she ought to receive at least a few shillings a week for pocket money. Marriage is at once the most respectable and the worst remunerated profession for the majority of women within the compass of human destiny. The rage for cheapness, my dear McLaren, is the scourge of the country. In these days many men expect to buy a wife, a general servant, and a houseful of children for £1 a week, all found. It is utterly unreasonable, of course. But what is to be expected from our one-sided system of Free Trade?

Of course there are sentimental objections to treating the marriage state as that of employer and servant, but we have no time for sentiment in these days.

John Bull.

To the Chairman of the Watch Committee, Manchester.

Sir,—Listen to me. The Watch Committee in Manchester are on dangerous ground in refusing the right of free speech to some persons and granting it to others. It is true that the Committee are entrusted with the duty of taking precautions against a breach of the peace. But they are not entitled to pick out any individual Manchester citizen and say he shall not speak in a public place to which other citizens resort for a similar unchallenged purpose. The committee have had a bad fall in the Pendlebury case. Beware lest they have another and a worse one through the action of the police who obey their orders. They prevented Pendlebury from speaking in Stevenson Square, and then arrested him on a charge of disorderly behaviour, not because he behaved in a disorderly way, but because, on the admission of an inspector who gave evidence before the magistrates, they were "carrying out the orders of the Watch Committee in preventing him from speaking." The leaders of the Right to Work Council, without interference, speak in the square, but this man, again according to the evidence of the police-inspector, has had "his permission to hold meetings withdrawn owing to his vilification and constant abuse of the Lord Mayor, the Bishop, the Dean, the councillors, and all the respectable citizens of Manchester." So, gentlemen, it comes to this: If a man's public criticisms of public men are too vigorous to merit the appreciation of your Committee, they set on the police to suppress him. Is Manchester, then, a proclaimed district, sir? Is nobody in Manchester permitted to ventilate his opinions in a public place unless he holds a police licence? When Mr. Lloyd George comes to Manchester to fling his oratorical vitriol in the faces of the Lords, will he have to get a certificate from the Chief Constable before he is allowed in Stevenson Square?

The opinions of this man Pendlebury are nothing in the case. He is amenable to the ordinary law if he transgresses the reasonable bounds of his liberty; it seems to be the programme of your Committee not only to create new offences, but to arrest and suppress a speaker before they are committed. Pendlebury had not spoken when arrested, and on this occasion, therefore, he could not have abused the Lord Mayor, or the Bishop, or the Dean, or any of the Chapter. Very properly, the magistrates marked their sense of this police invasion of citizen rights by discharging the prisoner. Let your Committee profit by the rebuke and the lesson. Let them keep their police to their proper duties. If they have anything at any time against this man Pendlebury, let them prosecute him for what he says and does, not for what he doesn't. These are not times to assault reasonably exercised popular liberties.

John Bull.

Lord Raglan, Governor, Isle of Man.

Obliged your information no Chinese pork will be used in Isle of Man, but all shipped to England. As best Manx cured bacon, I suppose?

Bull.

Sultan of Turkey, Yildiz.

Thanks for giving the order for £5,000,000 worth of battleships. You can rely on best workmanship.

Bull.

"CONFLICTING" EVIDENCE.

(The statement we made last week that there were serious dissensions in the Cabinet has been generally denied.)

JOHN BULL: "Is it true, Mr. Asquith, that there is any conflict of opinion in the Cabinet?"
MR. ASQUITH: "My dear Mr. Bull, there is not the slightest conflict at all. We are all in absolute harmony."

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Active Markets Before Easter—Rhodesians, Kaffirs and Rubbers Buoyant—Optimistic Sentiments.

Tempora mutantur. There was a time when the Stock Exchange, so frequently disappointed during the recent lean years, comforted itself with the hope that business would revive "after Easter." In fact, this has been the cry year after year. This year we are in the midst of a boom *before* Easter, a boom of such dimensions that the staffs of the stockbrokers are working almost day and night. And this state of things bids fair to further continue, Home politics notwithstanding, Rhodesians are enjoying quite a revival, Kaffirs are active and advancing, and Rubber shares are still wanted, especially the dividend-payers. Strong efforts are being made to engineer an Oil boom, Home Rails are well supported, the South American Rubbish Bonds are enjoying a revival, and Yankees, almost alone, are sulking.

Rhodesians in Favour, although Moving by Fits and Starts.

After a short spell of profit-taking, Rhodesians are to the front again, and are moving up in their usual fashion, by fits and starts. *Globe and Phœnix*, on a 10s. dividend, making 18s. for the year, have jumped to 8, and while *Surprise* have eased to 3⅛, *Tanks* are hardening at 7, *Chartered* are rallying at 1 11-16, *Exploring Lands and Minerals* have improved to 12s. 3d., and *Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia* are advancing at 12s. Some important news is expected from the latter Company's schist properties, Mr. Abe Bailey and Mr. Sam Thomson having left Johannesburg last week in order to push forward developments and laying out surface equipment there. *Rhodesian Mines Trust* shares have advanced to 17s. 6d., as I said they would, and are expected to go higher, while *Rhodesian Gold Mines Investment* at a moderate reaction to 1 11-16, deserve every attention. A remarkable assay in the *Eldorado Banket* Mine's east drive on the sixth level of 130z. over 6ft. fully confirms what I have on former occasions said about this property.

A Cheap West African.

I have already stated my view that in the near future West Africans will come strongly to the fore, and the present is obviously a favourable opportunity of buying while prices are low, and not in any way inflated. The public so frequently wait until quotations have advanced sharply so that they are still buying when they should already clear their profits. Amongst the low-priced West Africans, I hear good accounts of New Gold Proprietary Mines. The property of the Company is situate in the Kwahu district, where the Wallis Syndicate have their valuable holdings. The well-known Mining Engineer, Mr. Forbes White, A.M.I.M.E., is now on his way to the property to take over the management. I further hear that important negotiations are in progress regarding the acquisition of further valuable properties, and I therefore believe that the Gold Properties, which are obtainable at about 5s., are one of the cheapest mining gambles in the market, which should ultimately attain a much higher level, especially having regard to the small capital, viz., £60,000.

Kaffirs Bracing Up—General Mining Dividend.

There has been no further sharp rise in Kaffirs, as profit-taking has been resorted to, but this left the market in a very strong position, and prices are bracing up. The view that the Rand industry is on the eve of a steady period of progression is rapidly gaining ground. The announcement of a net profit of £500,000 by the *General Mining and Finance Company*, which permits a 15 per cent. dividend to be paid and £247,000 to be carried forward, has created a favourable impression and put the price of the shares up to 2⅝, thus fully bearing out my favourable view. This represents a rise of 5-8 in a few weeks, and it is, perhaps, worth mentioning that this will mean greatly increased German support for Kaffirs in the near future in view of the large interest which German investors, including the great Berlin Banks, held in this group. The shares in the *Modderfontein Government Lease Company* (Modder Leases) are being introduced in the market under the auspices of Messrs. Barnato at 2⅛. *Modder* B are up at 3⅝, *Modder Deep* at 2⅝.

Rubber Still Active—Occasional Profit-taking Followed by Fresh Advances.

Although the wiseacres are shaking their heads, the rubber share market continues to distinguish itself by its remarkable strength, and further big advances in all directions have again been the order of the day. The directors' reports and dividend announcements of the well-established companies which have so far made their appearance, make a splendid showing, and it is pointed out that even at present prices the dividends likely to be earned and paid for the current year will be on a scale large enough to yield from 10 to 15 per cent. per annum. The market, however, has now got into such a condition that even the smallest purchases of the high-class shares suffice to move prices by ten shillings or a pound at a time, but so far, any serious decline has been prevented by eager buying from the Provinces, the East, and from Paris. Of course, eventually everything must depend upon the prices of rubber, but at present there are no indications of any serious setback therein, although fine hard Para is slightly below the highest point touched at 10s. 4d. But I cannot warn my readers too earnestly not to be tempted beyond their depth into any of the new flotations. Here is the case of the *La Mantona Company*, the special settlement in which is now coming on, and which are quoted nominally at 5-8 discount per £1 share, in fact, practically unsaleable. Many others will have a similar fate, and it means simply ruin for many of the unfortunate applicants. On the other hand, some of the shares to which I have drawn attention show great strength. *Jequié Rubber* are up at 12s. 6d., West *Jequié* at 6s., *Madagascar Participating Prefs.* at 2¾, *Nyassa Rubber* at 1 premium. The last-named, in view of their large territory and great possibilities, are still a good purchase. *Molesworth Brothers* shares, after some selling by holders who had acquired them in a bonus division by the controlling company, are rallying. I look for a rise after the statutory meeting to be held on the 30th inst.

Oil Shares More Active—Efforts to Create a Boom—What about Maikop?

Although the Oil share market is now active, there is no boom, however much the sponsors of the numerous new companies may wish for one. I have already explained how, in view of the huge capitalisations, further upward movements in the older companies, such as *Burmah Oil* and *Shell Transports*, are dangerous. The favourable dividend estimates of the *Spies Company* have also to materialise yet, and a *Pacific Oilfields* dividend is not expected before the end of next year. What, then, about the Maikop oilfield? There is a rush of new prospectuses: the *Maikop Oil Proprietary*, share capital £252,500; the *International Maikop, Ltd.*, capital £83,000; and the *Maikop Midland, Ltd.*, capital £157,000; while the *Maikop Boring and Concessions*, capital £50,000, *Maikop Premier Oil Syndicate*, capital £75,000, are in embryo, and dozens of Oil properties in all parts of the world are being prepared for the investing public. I shall have some special information to impart on Maikop in next issue.

NEW ISSUES.

WHITING MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

This Company, which is incorporated under the laws of Tennessee, U.S.A., issues £400,000 Six Per Cent. Mortgage Gold Bonds to bearer, which are offered by Lloyds Bank, Ltd., who are authorised by the Investment Registry, Ltd., the purchasers of the Bonds, to receive applications for the same at par. The Bonds are secured, by a trust deed, whereby 93,000 acres of freehold timber lands, situated in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina, and in Tennessee, together with saw-mills and plant, are mortgaged to the Knickerbocker Trust Company, of New York, as trustees for the bondholders. The principal, together with a premium of 5 per cent., is repayable at Lloyds Bank, London, in 1930, while, commencing in 1912, the Company has the right to redeem one-eighteenth of the Bond issue annually at 105. Future profits are estimated at £100,000 per annum, at which rate the Bond interest and sinking fund would be covered 2½ times over. The issue, therefore, is amply secured and presents a favourable opportunity for investment.

THE MAPALAGAMA RUBBER ESTATES, LTD.

Is the Registration of the Company Valid?

Our attention has been called to the Memorandum of Association of this Company, amongst the signatories to which we find Francis George Ibbetson and Frank Reginald Ellis, each of whom subscribes for ten shares. We are told that these signatories are young boys about 15 years of age, in which case we have our doubts as to whether the registration of the Company is valid. Perhaps the Directors will explain.

KUTAIS MINING AND TIMBER COMPANY.

There is some likelihood of dealings in these shares being revived, as the Company has a third interest in the Kozlowsky Petroleum Company, and there is some talk of a group putting up a substantial amount of working capital.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

SOUND KAFFIRS, ETC.—IRON.—The leading Kaffir shares look most attractive at present, and you might, for instance, place the £150 in Randfontein Estates, Randfontein Central, or Randfontein South. The Rubber shares mentioned should be sold as soon as you see a fair profit.

ARTIZANS' DWELLINGS STOCK.—BUNGALOW (Shadwell).—The present quotation is 68-73, and it might be advisable to hold for a further improvement.

HUMBERS.—P. L. F.—Motor trade prospects look promising, and it would hardly be advisable to sell Humbers now. At the same time, you can only regard these shares as a pure speculation.

NEW ZEALAND 4 PER CENT. STOCK.—A. E. D.—There is no reason why you should not buy New Zealand 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, which, at the present price of 106, yields £3 11s. 9d. per cent. (2) You can get the same yield in West Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock at 97½, and both are equally good; but it is not possible to obtain a higher yield in sound Colonial Government Stocks. (4) High enough. If you want to buy some progressive mining shares, you cannot do better than select some Randfontein Central or Randfontein South. (4) Yes, what you require has been forwarded.

STOCK EXCHANGE CONDITIONS.—READER (Brighton).—(1) Messrs. Effingham Wilson, of 1, Royal Exchange Buildings, E.C., publish such guides. You might send for their list. (2) The commissions are very much alike, and you can, moreover, obtain the same beforehand from stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange. (3) Outside brokers. Have nothing to do with them. (4) This margin varies, but I do not think you could do better than employ the firm, members of the Stock Exchange, whose name I am sending you as requested. J. H. S.—(a) Yes, a respectable house broker would undertake this class of business. (b) Ditto. (c) Certainly What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

TRUST SOCIETY.—C. O. S.—My consistent view is that it is far better to keep your money liquid by, for instance, putting it into the P.O. Savings Bank, than locking it up in such Bonds, which are by no means easily realisable.

PREMIUM BONDS.—M. E. D. B.—What you require has been forwarded. A paper which publishes the drawings is *Le Moniteur des Interêts Matériels*, a bi-monthly journal, which can be subscribed for through Messrs. Davies and Co., of Finch Lane, London, E.C. W. H. S.—I have not the slightest doubt that you paid too much for your Premium Bonds to this concern. I send you name of a London firm of Foreign Bankers, who make a speciality of this business, and who also would watch the drawings of the numbers for you. PARIS.—The *modus operandi* of this firm is to charge unduly high prices, and to pay very low prices when you wish to sell the bonds. The latter are genuine enough, but you will be well advised to buy them only through a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of dealing in Lottery Bonds at market prices. I send you the address of such a firm. SOUTH AFRICAN.—You should have nothing to do with these people, who charge prices far above the market value, and in any case you had better employ a respectable foreign banker in London, who deals specially in these shares, and whose address I am sending you.

LIFE INTEREST.—G. B. (Hull).—Your best course would be to apply to some of the Insurance Companies, and ask them for their best offer.

CANADIAN PACIFICS.—JOSTAR.—The occurrence should be a lesson to you, and, as requested, I send you the address of a reliable firm. You cannot, of course, prevent these people from sending you their circulars, and must simply put them into the waste paper basket.

ALASSIO STEAMSHIP.—Q.C.—No information is available in the usual books of reference concerning this company.

RUBBERS, OILS AND RHODESIANS.—W. W. W.—I send what you require. With regard to the Bonds in question, I understand that a dividend will very likely be forthcoming shortly. ORWELL.—(1) You have got rather high into Standard of Mexico "B" shares, but you had better hold. (2) Certainly. There will be a considerable rise in these shares. (3) If you have a profit in these Rubber shares, take it. (4) Impossible to tell. (5) Get out if you can. Skating Rinks are altogether out of favour. J. C.—(1) Yes, take an early opportunity of selling these Rubber shares. (2) Yes, hold Fanti Consols. (3) I propose devoting special attention to such companies presently, and you will gather from my remarks the most promising companies of the kind.

INDUSTRIALS.—J. M.—(1) Iron and steel trade conditions are improving, and Cargo Fleets might as well be held now. (2) Sell Welsbachs on any favourable opportunity. I note that you have bought Molesworths and Standard Oil of Mexico; always remember that no one was ever ruined by taking reasonable profits.

£300 INVESTMENT.—A. P.—In your position you would be well advised to stick to sound securities, and you could not do much better than buy, for instance, Colonial Government bonds, amongst which Western Australian 3½ per cent. bonds, at under 97, are very attractive.

CHERSONESE RUBBER.—R. B.—Yes, take your profit on these Rubber shares, and invest in sound South Africans—Randfontein South, Randfontein Central, and Randfontein Estates would form an excellent trio.

POSTAL SERVICE AND GENERAL BUILDING SOCIETY.—W. G. ANXIOUS.—I must confess that I have no particular knowledge of this concern, but my invariable rule is to advise transactions only with the leading and well-known institutions.

RUBBERS, COLLIERIES.—H. J. A.—I do not care much for the Rubber shares in question, and advise you to sell on any favourable opportunity. As regards the Collieries, this industry is very much cut up owing to excessive competition, and until the various coal producers arrive at some agreement to stop their cut-throat policy there is little hope for them. Under the circumstances, I cannot advise you to average your holding at present.

CIRCULARS.—A. BERGLASLYN.—You ought to know my opinion upon this subject by now. Deal only with members of the Stock Exchange.

INDUSTRIAL DEBENTURE.—A. S. S. (Exmouth).—I do not see much prospect of an improvement, and you had better take an early opportunity to sell. The present quotation is 73 to 78.

BUILDING SOCIETY INVESTMENT.—CITY.—I do not think that at the present juncture building societies are good for investment, in view of all the trouble of the land taxes, which is by no means over. It would be far safer to invest the money in sound Stock Exchange securities, which would yield you the same return, or more, and would probably improve in value.

GILT-EDGED INVESTMENT FOR £1,000.—W. J. W.—As you want to be quite safe, your best selection would be Western Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed Government Stock at 97½, yielding £3 11s. 6d. per cent.; Victoria ditto at 93, yielding £3 11s. per cent.; New Zealand 3½ per cent. Inscribed Government stock at 98½, yielding £3 10s. 9d. per cent. You might spread the amount over these three. It would be preferable now to put off a sale of Consols, as a rally is not improbable.

RUBBER SHARES.—E. W.—The views expressed were chiefly from the point of view that there is little market in the shares, so that they would be the first to feel the effects of any pronounced slump. If you have taken up your shares it is, of course, a different matter, but you must still regard them in the light of a pure speculation. CAM.—Kuala Pahi are not currently quoted yet, and you will have to watch them closely. You had better give your stockbroker instructions to that effect. S. B. S.—You certainly paid too high a price for these shares, and should be content if you get out without a loss. BRAZIL.—The trouble with these newest Rubber shares is that they have very little market, and that they are the first to feel the effects of a reaction. This is cold comfort to you, but in future look before you leap. In any case, it must be a long time before the company can reach the producing stage, and by that time rubber prices might be much lower. Watch your opportunity, and sell. WAITER (Aldershot).—Instead of entering into the transaction in question, you should put your money into the P.O. Savings Bank. It will yield much less there, but it will be safe, which would not be the case if you risked it in the manner suggested. H. H.—I have complied with your wish. If you buy the Rubber shares at once you may get in cheap, and before a smart rise develops. As regards Oil shares, I can but confirm the paragraph in last week's issue. KEWITE.—You will find it more satisfactory and safer in the long run to buy shares through the proper channels, and I send what you require in your envelope. BUCAMBRA.—(1) I send what you require in your envelope. (2) You might find it an expensive game to become a Bear of rubber shares. Why not put the £100 in promising low-priced Rhodesians, such as Amalgamated Props.? W.P.B.—(1) I cannot find any price for Brazilian Rubber and Estates. (2) Nor for Mexican Smelting Corporation. (3) British Transvaal Gold Exploration are also not saleable.

VAL D'OR RUBBERS.—BOX.—The price of the 2s. shares of Val d'Or Rubber is 2s. 9d. to 3s. 3d. What you require has been forwarded to you.

RHODESIAN MINES.—FAGIN.—Exploring Land and Minerals of Rhodesia at 12s. 6d. and Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia at 12s., are a good purchase, and you had better spread the amount over both. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

STEEL COMMON.—YANKEES.—It is quite possible that Steel Common will improve, but just now the Yankee market is in so demoralised a condition that it is advisable to wait until one can see more clearly. What you require has been forwarded.

AMERICAN MILLING COMPANY.—INVICTA.—I really do not see why you should go so far afield to buy American shares, which are not quoted here, and which it would be very difficult to sell again.

NEW RIETFONTEIN.—BELMONT.—There has been a dyke met in this mine, and the ore has fallen off in value. The question is whether and when a change will come about. (2) A fair mining risk. Hold.

ANGLO-CEYLON RUBBERS.—A. F. J.—The price of Anglo-Ceylon Rubber shares is now 4¾ to 4¾, and you should take your profits, which are considerable. Ask your stockbroker to get you a prospectus if you wish to hold.

MORIBUND MINES.—DOWGATE.—The South Rhodesia Goldfields and the Lady Loch Gold Mine are no longer in existence. Sheba Gold Mining are quoted at about 6s. 6d., and may go higher. The Hannan's Proprietary Development company is now known as the Hannan's Proprietary, but I doubt if these shares are worth more than a shilling apiece.

£300 "FLUTTER."—A. E. A.—You cannot do much better than put this sum into promising Rhodesians. There is no regular market for Commonwealth Oil Deferred, and you should take an early opportunity of getting rid of the same and going into more marketable shares.

CAR AND RINK SHARES.—L. A. W.—I do not care for this Motor Cab Company (1), and certainly not for the Rink shares (2). You can do much better in established Industrial concerns.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—LEFEVRE.—As far as I am aware, the building society in question is a sound one, but such institutions have not had a good time of late. However, the transfer in question should not prove disadvantageous, at any rate, in comparison with your friend's present position.

BEIRA RAILS.—KER.—The best of the three shares in question are the Beira Railway Bearer shares, although these have already had such a substantial rise that it might be as well to await a temporary reaction before getting in.

HOUSE BROKER.—FREEMAN.—The firm you mention are outside brokers, and I do not recommend dealing with outside brokers. In your case, it will be advisable to deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. GIRAY.—(1) The firm you mention are members of the Stock Exchange, and very respectable, but I doubt very much whether they will do such small business. (2 and 3) The firm whose name I send you would be quite willing to deal in these amounts. (4) You must take care to buy fully-paid shares. (5) You must consult my remarks under Rubber shares this week. (6) This also applies to Oil shares and to Rhodesian shares (7). (8) It is getting rather dangerous. (9) Not too much. I should think South African mines would be preferable.

RUBBER SHARE SETTLEMENT.—CAUTION.—You need not pay until the special settlement, which will, however, take place shortly, and you will enjoy all the benefits.

ROBINSON GOLD MINES.—H. H. L.—As you wish to reinvest into a mine with a longer life, you might select, as you suggest, Randfontein Central or Randfontein South. What you require has been forwarded.

AGUNICO MINES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—J. R. G.—I should advise you, when you get such circulars with regard to mines in Illinois, to put them in the waste-paper basket. It is quite possible to buy promising stocks in London. Your stockbroker will advise you.

BANDAR SUMATRA AND MABIRA FOREST.—DREADNOUGHT.—After your experience with outside brokers, you should indeed in future only deal with members of the Stock Exchange. Bandar Sumatra £1 shares, 7s. 6d. paid, are now quoted at 3s. 4d. prem., and Mabira Forest £1 shares, 15s. paid, are quoted 3 to 3½. If these prices leave you a fair profit you had better take it. As to No. 3 Kamna, I do not wish to express any opinion.

GARAGE MOTOR CAB COMPANY.—TIERNEY.—You have now paid up the whole amount of the 150 shares, and have to await the special settlement. Even if you sell them now, you can only obtain the money when the special settlement takes place, and it is not stated yet when this will happen. Write to the Secretary and ask whether the settlement has been applied for.

RUBBERS AND MINES.—KIMBERLEY.—Rubbers: In Rubber shares it is more than necessary to stick to the shares in which there is a free market. In this respect, Sumatra Para, Nyassa and Molesworth are chiefly to be recommended amongst the shares mentioned by you. As regards mines, hold Hendersons, Transvaal Developments, and Willoughbys, which should all go better again presently. The Power Preference shares might also be kept. The concern mentioned is quite an outside concern. I do not care for the last-menitone shares. I send what you require in your envelope.

LYDENBURG MINERALS, ETC.—NORMAN.—(1) New Lydenburg Minerals are not now quoted, and their only chance is a buoyant Kaffir market. (2) No; the buyer pays this when he calls the share. (3) Yes, but you must be prepared to face considerable fluctuations. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

JUNGLES AND KAFFIRS.—ELECTRA.—All four low-priced shares mentioned have possibilities, and they should be held. I send you the address asked for.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.—WEC.—I am unable to find out anything about "India Rubber Mexico, Ltd." Your other investments are well-assorted and promising, and on some of them you have splendid profits, which I am inclined to advise you to clear, at least in part, such as on Nos. 1, 3, 7 and 9. VANDENBERGHS.—A. C.—This is a very promising Industrial company, but such a profit as 12s. per share is always worth taking. What you require has been sent in your envelope.

JAPANESE.—N. C.—It will be a long time yet before the conversion of the External Debt takes place, as the whole of the Internal Debt is to be refunded first. You might wait until the next half-yearly dividend is paid. As regards other investments of a similar kind, Brazilians and Chilians are well worth attention. The address you ask for has been sent in your envelope.

Skating Rinks.—Hibernian.—This group of Skating Rink Companies has been severely criticised in the financial Press, and apparently with much justice. The outlook is by no means promising, and if you can get rid of the shares you had better do so. J. W. (Brixton Hill.)—Skating Rinks have fallen on evil times, and I am afraid that you will have difficulty in disposing of the shares; and I have complied with your request.

Oil Shares.—Nil Desperandum.—It is a pity that you got into these Oil shares so high, but after the fall it would be advisable to hold for a recovery, which will probably occur when the oil-share market generally goes better. G. A. N.—Standard Oil of Mexico might be worth attention again on any further reaction, while Eastern Petroleum are a fair speculation.

Outside Brokers.—Brighton.—It is not for me to argue with you with regard to the advantage of employing outside brokers, You seem to think they are philanthropists, but in the long run you will find that they cost you dearer than stockbrokers who are members of the Stock Exchange. I never recommend dealing with outside brokers, and therefore do not do so in the case of Nos. 1, 2, and 3. What you require has been forwarded. Lucio.—It is about time that you understood that these transactions are not genuine, but entirely of the bucket-shop order. Have nothing further to do with such people. Even if you came out on top in any transactions, you would not get your money, and they would plead the Gaming Act if you sued them. X. Y. Z.—Neither of the firms in question are suitable, and you should have nothing to do with them. I send you the address of a suitable firm of inside stockbrokers in your envelope. Curious.—I should not like to express any definite opinion in the matter, but you would find it pay you better in the long run to deal with members of the Stock Exchange. W. M. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—The people in question are outside brokers of a most doubtful type, and I strongly advise you not to trust them with any money, or you will lose it. Their "operations" are of the usual bucket-shop order. A. S. (Rochester).—I should be sorry to say that any firm of outside brokers is "O. K." F. McQ.—(1) I never recommend any firm of outside brokers. (2) A good many of this class do so. (3) Certainly, and for this reason I send what you require in your envelope. K. F. F. Outside brokers, whom I cannot recommend. I send you, in your envelope, name of a respectable firm, members of the Stock Exchange. T. H. C. (Cymro).—I do not advise going in for the special stock combines of the United Stock and Share Corporation. I should like to meet someone in the flesh who has made all the profits they boast of. Victoria (Yorks).—Stripped of all its fine phraseology, this circular is no more than an outside tout's effusion, and you should throw it into the waste-paper basket. Deal only with members of the Stock Exchange, or you will rue it sooner or later. Thand.—Exactly the same reply as to "Victoria, Yorks." Simple.—I agree with you in your suspicions; but it is possible for these people to plead the Gaming Act. Grateful.—There are complaints with regard to both (a and b) outside brokers, and the only way is to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange. J. L. R.—I have not received any complaints with regard to the firm of outside brokers mentioned, but I send what you want (1) Members of the Stock Exchange give carry-over contracts every settlement, but they do not exact all the conditions you mention. You will quite understand that, with the thousands of letters which have to be dealt with, there may be now and then some delay. Mack.—I strongly advise you to deal only with members of the Stock Exchange, and I have done as you request. Brier (Fleetwood).—I cannot trouble myself about the opinions expressed by other newspapers, and merely confirm the paragraphs which appeared; but if you do not wish to deal with outside brokers, why do you not deal with stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange? S. F. (Armagh).—Outside brokers, who are, I believe, respectable, but I can say nothing as to safety or means.

Continental Lotteries.—A. P.—Have nothing to do with these. The documents are returned.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67 Long Acre, W.C.

Endowment Policy.—J. P. K. (Stoke-on-Trent).—Of the six companies you name, No. 1 will give you the best results. Francais (Taunton).—(1) All three companies you name are in the first rank of insurance institutions. (2) Yes, you could get slightly better terms for an Endowment policy from the Sun Life of Canada. Their rates are slightly lower, but not much, because an Endowment policy does not admit of much variation in the rates, but their surrender values, loan values, and general conditions are more favourable than those of most of the home companies. The conditions are embodied as part and parcel of the policy, so that the assured can tell without going to the office what its loan value would be after a certain number of years, what would be its surrender value, and what the paid-up value.

Status of Company.—Lanus (West Ealing).—You need be under no apprehension. The company has been running more than 70 years, has been prosperous from the outset, and there is every likelihood of its being flourishing 70 years hence. A. J. H. (Boscombe).—We cannot recommend the company you name.

Bonus Distribution.—F. L. D. (London).—It is a company in the front rank. Nine-tenths of the divisible profits are allotted to policyholders, and these profits are divided every 5 years. Your friend must be mistaken in his information

New York Life Insurance Company.—Saxon (London).—You take a too gloomy view of the position. You will no doubt receive more than the £200, but nothing like the £350 you say you are promised. We do not know how you are to transfer in the way you suggest.

Advance for Building Purposes.—J. S. (Callander Station).—We will make enquiry and answer your question next week.

Terminable Policy.—G. P. (Brighton).—We do not think you could carry out the transaction you suggest, but we will make some enquiries and let you know next week.

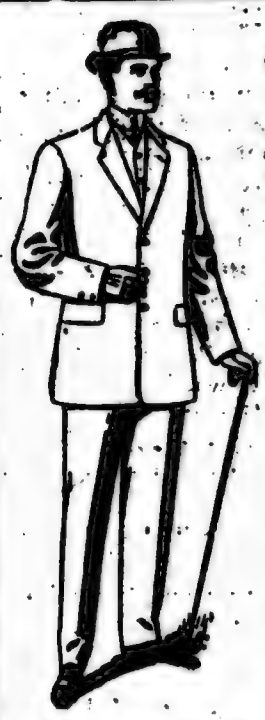
Mutual Property Insurance and Accident Company.—Lidsea (Chadwell Heath).—The company was established in 1898, for house purchase, short-time endowments, old-age pensions, personal sickness, but not for life. It is not suitable for your purpose.

THE RHODESIA MINES TRUST, LTD.

This company, which was introduced upon the market last Friday, under the auspices of one of the leading finance houses, should certainly claim a considerable amount of the public's attention. The claims and options owned and acquired by this company; which now has a very substantial amount of working capital, appear to be quite amongst the pick of the Rhodesian basket. Apart from the Elgin and Turk, now being run by tributors who have recently considerably increased their plant, the Mahgwe and Cachara Blocks in the vicinity of the Asp Mines make an exceptionally good showing. The former is a 40-claim block, and has a strike of reef of nearly 6,000 feet, considered to be worth at least £3 a ton. The latter is a 50-claim block immediately adjoining the Asp, and also shows values over a long strike of reef running, in some cases, to over £5 a ton.

The large interests about to be acquired in the immediate vicinity of the eastern end of the Shamva ought to be of great prospective value, as it is a matter of common knowledge that the most recent finds, which are reported to be very good indeed, have been made in that direction.

It is pointed out that upon the intrinsic merits of the company these shares should appreciate in value in the near future.



4¼ Pounds of all Wool.

This is the weight of a suit length of our Special Blue Serge which we have named the

"DREADNOUGHT."

If the colour goes within a period of 3 years' wear we replace the SUIT WITH A NEW ONE free of charge.

The Price to Measure. **36/9** The Price to Measure.

To JOHN BULL Readers only.

You MUST produce this advertisement to obtain this Serge. No concession can be allowed from the price. Call at once or write for Patterns. Simple Self-measurement Forms sent.

GEORGE DOLAND, LTD.

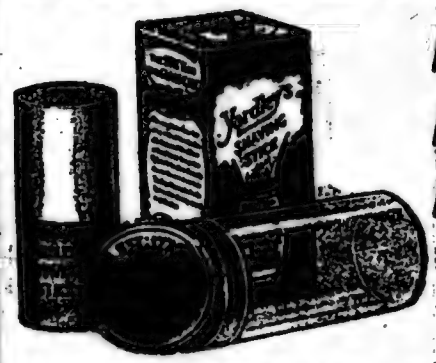
374, STRAND, W.C.

Chief Establishment.

Branches throughout London and Suburbs.

Postal Dept., 35, ALDERSGATE STREET, E.C.

YARDLEY'S SHAVING STICK.



A Necessity.
An Economy.
A Luxury.

"The Stick in the Glass Case."

A Necessity? Yes, for a Good Soap is as necessary as a good razor.

An Economy? Yes, for a little of the Soap makes a lasting lather and all the soap used is worked up. The lather does not dry and a clean shave is had the first time over.

A Stick lasts 6 Months.

A Luxury? Yes, for it means a smooth, cool skin, and it leaves a feeling of freshness and satisfaction.

BRITISH MADE and THE BEST.

Of all Chemists 1/-, or Free Sample on receipt of 1d. stamp to—

YARDLEY & CO., Ltd., (Dept. E.)

THE TOILET & SHAVING SOAP SPECIALISTS, STRATFORD, E.

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

"DISABLED BY INFIRMITY."

If the present Government goes on much longer it will come to be known as the jobbery Government. The latest illustration of its tendency to jobbery is the retirement of Mr. Justice Bigham from the Presidency of the Divorce and Admiralty Division. Mr. Asquith was asked in the House of Commons the other evening if Sir John Bigham retired upon the usual pension, and if so, how that was reconciled with the regulation that requires 15 years' service to entitle a judge to his pension. Mr. Asquith's reply was that Sir John Bigham is to draw the pension, and that he is entitled to it because he was "granted a medical certificate." In answer to a further question as to the law bearing upon the matter, Mr. Asquith said, "A judge is entitled to his pension when he has served 15 years, he is entitled to it also if he is disabled by infirmity, before he has served 15 years." Does Mr. Asquith really ask Parliament to believe that Sir John Bigham retired because he is "disabled by infirmity"? In taking leave of the judges Sir John Bigham referred to the reasons of his retirement, and so far as he went he told the truth about it. He said that he was close upon 70 years of age and "felt rather tired," but he hastened to add that he was not so very tired, and that he hoped to do good public service elsewhere. Is it probable that a man who talks about himself in this way is in a state of physical decrepitude that will not allow him to remain upon the Bench for another two years, the time necessary to qualify Sir John Bigham in the ordinary way for the retiring allowance?

The truth about the matter is, of course, that the Government persuaded Sir John Bigham to retire. They wanted a judgeship for their Solicitor-General. When the Campbell-Bannerman Government came in in 1906 it was a question whether the Solicitor-Generalship should be given to Samuel Evans or Rufus Isaacs, and the longer Parliamentary service and the stronger political position of the former gave him the post. But it has been an open secret for some time past that Sir Samuel Evans was to go to the Bench and Mr. Rufus Isaacs to take his place as Solicitor-General. But the Solicitor-General naturally objected to take an ordinary judgeship. It is not the way with Solicitor-Generals, and so it was necessary to offer him something better, and the least they could offer was the Presidency of the Divorce and Admiralty Court, which carries with it a Privy Councillorship. But there was Sir John Bigham in the way, and in order to get him out of the way the Government offered him a Peerage if he would resign. He is, as he says, nearly 70 years of age, he is a very rich man, his peerage would entitle him to sit in the highest Law Court of the realm, and he was quite willing to fall in with the wish of the Government. That is the whole truth about the matter, and so far as the retirement and the appointment go, things being as they are in this country, there is not much to be said about them, but the pension was a real difficulty, unless Sir John Bigham was willing to waive it, as he might have done. As he was not, the Prime Minister stooped to the sort of fiction to be found in his statement to Parliament.

"JUDGE BACON—HOW MUCH LONGER?"

Referring to our paragraph of last week, in which we referred to the case of William Taylor, fruit vendor, to whom a Whitechapel County Court jury gave £28 damages for injury to himself and cart, a sum which, under the pressure of Judge Bacon, they reduced to £18, Mr. H. S. A. Foy, who acted for Taylor, writes us. After stating the facts, substantially as we gave them last week, Mr. Foy says:—

> I think everybody was astonished to hear the jury told to reconsider their verdict, which they appear to have done in a rough and ready way by taking off £10.
>
> The result is unfortunate, as my client, who is a very decent man and an honest one, though poor—is quite ruined. He not only has to pay £28 1s., his own medical and other expenses, but in addition the costs of the defendant which come to £17 2s. (after taxation), besides his own costs, the disbursements in connection with the action alone coming to nearly £14.
>
> This is very hard lines, and it is difficult to feel any confidence in a jury or hope that a verdict will be respected—in Whitechapel. I feel the jurymen would gladly have given something to Taylor out of their own pockets; and if they had known the effect of their change of verdict would not have allowed themselves to be persuaded—even ever so gently—to alter it.

The New
EASTER
TANS,

Phit Eesi

Are literally the latest in Smart Footwear.

On Show in all our Windows as below.

60, Ludgate Hill, E.C.
121, High Holborn, W.C.
434, Strand, W.C.
452, Holloway Road, N.
1, Seven Sisters Road, N.
54, Regent Street, W.
7, Poultry, E.C.
239, Brompton Road, S.W.
24, Liverpool Street, E.C.
3, Farringdon Road, E.C.
166a, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
65, George Street, Richmond
131a, Queen's Road, Bayswater.
98, High Street, Kensington, W.

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—LXXXII.

Mr. E. R. Stevenson, of the Palace Rooms, 95, Hope Street, Glasgow, sends us the following appeal on behalf of James Foster. It seems a very deserving case. Can any of our readers help this unfortunate man with his brave wife and helpless little children?

As a member of the John Bull League and, of course, a regular reader of your valuable paper, I have read with the greatest pleasure, week by week, of the great good you have been enabled to do for the writers of Human Documents, and am encouraged to appeal to JOHN BULL on behalf of a most deserving case.

James Foster, living at House 57, No. 21, Milton Lane, Cowcaddens, Glasgow, was in the Colonial Forces for eighteen months and served under Major Driscoll with his Scouts during the latter part of the Boer War.

For fifteen months after his discharge he was employed as porter at 25s. per week by Mr. Simon Jacobs, fruit broker, Candleriggs, but had to leave through slackness of trade. After a while he got on as carpenter's labourer with Messrs. Morrison and Mason, building a torpedo yard at Scotstoun, but was paid off on completion of the works. For over twelve months he struggled on doing odd jobs now and then—when he could find them. At last he got employment at White's Chemical Works, Ruglen, at 20s. a week, but after ten weeks, through a coal-miners' strike, work was suspended and he was, with many others, paid off. That was last July. Since then he has had to struggle on as best he could, and bit by bit their poor little home has gone to buy food for his wife and four children. His eldest child is 14, and is now at a school for servants and hopeful of soon being able to work. The others are aged 7, 3 and 1 respectively. The rent is about six weeks in arrears, and for that they have had notice to quit. Last week he did a whole day's work, for which he received 3s. 9d.; 3s. of that was promptly paid to their landlord, who seems to be pressing unduly hard. The notice to quit is to be enforced next week unless the rent is paid. I have promised to try to prevent that or, at least, to delay it, if possible. I have tried to get him or his wife odd jobs to do, but it is very difficult, and the little money I am able to spare does not go far.

He is up and at the docks at three in the morning looking for a job, but invariably draws a blank. Both he and his brave and patient wife are getting desperate, and I fear for what may happen if something does not turn up for them. The missions to which they have applied have told them to go to the poor-house, but the unhappy woman is terrified at that prospect, as there she would be separated from her children. Foster is a strong, well set-up man of 40, and is willing to do anything he can.

I enclose copy of his discharge papers—the original was lost—the character given him by Mr. Simon Jacobs and his rent-book, and the notice to quit. Will some of my fellow "John Bullites" help him in his dire straits?

We have to acknowledge further monies from readers on behalf of the writer of Human Document LXXVIII.:—Signalman, 2s.; Mater, 7s.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the following monies for the writer of Human Document No. LXXX., which have been forwarded as requested:—W. P. A., 2s. 6d.; Weed, 1s.; A. G., 2s. 6d.; W. Z. B., 1s.; J. C. R., 1s. 6d.; Soldier, 1s.; F. G. D., 21s.; J. A. T., 1s.; H. F. D., 2s.; Unrich, 1s.; G. H., 2s. 6d.; W. D. C., 20s.

SUNDAY FOOTBALL.

THE ACTION OF THE LONDON ASSOCIATION EXPLAINED.

We have received the following letter from a Councillor of the London Football Association:—

With reference to your reply to "Fair Play" (Walthamstow), in your issue of the 5th inst., as a Councillor of the London Football Association, I should like to point out, though carefully abstaining from expressing any views upon the question of Sunday football, that your reflections on the alleged "kill-joy" attitude of the Football Association are quite unmerited, seeing that the edict against Sunday football is not issued by that body, but by rule 25 of the Football Association, and consequently the London Football Association, being a subordinate authority, is simply carrying out what everyone must surely agree is its duty, in endeavouring to enforce the laws of the supreme authority governing the sport in question. If the dictum against Sunday football be wrong, the blame must rest with the Football Association, and not with the London Football Association.

WESTON.—Write to Bull's Head immediately. No proceedings being taken.—JOE.

An Electric Car Driver.

Influenza, Debility, Lassitude—

Of course, some are cured quicker than others, but all *are* cured, as witness the transformation of Mr. Gilbrook—at the eleventh hour almost. Mr. Gilbrook *did not care what happened*, so woefully affected was he by influenza, debility, yet in the twinkling of an eye seemingly, Phosferine plucked him from the depths of despair and changed the whole outlook of his life. *Now* he is a happy man again, and can *feel* the difference which others can see; all the weakness, depression and lassitude have gone, and he is able to drive his electric car entirely free from nervous apprehensions. Mr. Gilbrook has derived such an excess of vigour and vitality, such a flood of energy from Phosferine he feels bound to tell other workers that so splendid a remedy as the Greatest of all Tonics *is within everybody's reach.*

Always Cured.

Mr. Alexander Gilbrook, 28, Fenton's Avenue, Balaam Street, Plaistow, E., writes:—"A little while back I was taken ill with influenza, and it left me battered, utterly worn-out, and unfit for anything. I could not sleep, had no appetite, suffered from debility, lassitude, and my nerve was quite gone, so much so, that the traffic in the road worried and told upon me to an alarming degree. *I did not seem to care much what happened to me.* I am a driver on the electric tram cars, and the work requires a great deal of energy and promptitude. The first day I returned to duty I could hardly stand, through weakness and the pain I experienced, and I began to give up all hope of ever getting well again, and I felt utterly dejected. I read a daily paper advertising Phosferine, and imagining I might obtain relief, immediately purchased a small bottle, and after taking the first few doses, I experienced a great relief, I *felt* myself improving wonderfully; the effect on my system was simply grand, and before I had nearly finished the contents of the bottle, was as well as I ever could wish to be.

"I write feeling assured that those suffering from the terrible after-effects of influenza may have cause like myself to be thankful that so splendid a remedy is *within their reach.*"—April 23, 1909.

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Neuralgia	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Rheumatism	Maternity Weakness	Malaria
Brain-fag	Nervous Headaches	Sleeplessness
Indigestion	Sciatica	Nervousness

and all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

THE REMEDY OF KINGS.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands,

To the Royal Family	H.M. the King of Greece
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia	H.M. The King of Spain
H.M. the Queen of Roumania	The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

Bottles, 1/1½, 2/9, and 4/6. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By WALTER MOORE.

XLI.—EARL CARRINGTON.

Immediately after one of the recent debates in the House of Lords on the Rosebery Resolution, I followed Earl Carrington to the office of the Board of Agriculture, keen on an interview with its noble President, who, be it stated for the edification of advocates of business methods of government, is not only the President, but all the members of the "Board" into the bargain.

Having run the gauntlet of nine secretaries, whose aggregate salaries amount to about £6,000 per annum, I found my way to the sanctum of Earl Carrington. Having taken the precaution to conceal my identity in the garb of a Norfolk farmer, I felt confident of a genial reception. Nor were my expectations disappointed.

"Good daay, Mr. Yearl," I began, in the broadest dialect I could assume, "I be coom oop tu Lunnun tu ax yow what I be tu du about oor old sow."

"What's your name?" demanded the Earl, striving to suppress a smile.

"Garge," I replied, "arter granfeyther, as 'e wor called Garge arter *his* granfeyther afoor 'im."

"Well, George, what's wrong with this old sow of yours?" asked the Earl, with a twinkling eye.

"Wool, Mister Yearl, she du rout somethin' tarr'ble, an' theer ain't noo stoppin' 'er. She be wuss'n a steam plough in the stoy, heavin' up the y'earth wi' her snout a fair maasterpiece."

"Put a ring in her nose and give her plenty to eat," said Earl Carrington abruptly, adding, "Good day, George," and turning away to examine some papers on his desk.

"My lord," I said, resuming normal speech, "I haven't finished with you yet. I hear you are to be appointed Governor-General of Canada. Is it correct?"

Earl Carrington swung round in his chair.

"Ah, JOHN BULL, I perceive," he remarked; "so it's my turn at last."

"That's so," I returned. "But about the Canada rumour?"

"It is very probable," replied the Earl. "Have you any objection to my appointment?"

"Not if you feel qualified for the post," was my response; "but I *have* felt rather doubtful as to your suitability for the position since reading your frivolous and inconsequential speech in the House of Lords on Lord Rosebery's Resolution. That spirit of bucolic trifling will not do for Canada."

"To what serious questions do you refer?" asked Earl Carrington.

"The most grave, in my opinion, is the discrepancy that exists between Canadian *expressions* of loyalty and Canadian *conduct* towards English emigrants. It should be your business to find some means to stop the publication of those injurious advertisements which appear frequently in Canadian papers containing the clause 'No Englishmen need apply.'"

"I'll make a note of that," said the Earl. "What next?"

"You must lose no time in making a strict inquiry into the Salvation Army emigrant scandal, which was recently exposed in JOHN BULL."

"Anything else?" asked Earl Carrington, rapidly making notes.

"It should also be your business to set your face determinedly against the cant and religious humbug which is reported to prevail in certain Canadian cities, particularly in Toronto, where, it appears, a man is liable to be fined if he is discovered doing a little job for himself on a Sunday."

"What you appear to want," remarked the Earl, "is, that I should act in Canada as a kind of Minister Plenipotentiary for the John Bull League."

"Exactly," said I; "and what greater honour could any man have than a foremost place in the ranks of the army which is being mobilized to fight cant, humbug, and hypocrisy in the religious, political, and social life of the British Empire?"

"Well, it certainly sounds better than my present job of fighting swine fever, and foot-and-mouth disease, not to speak of sheep scab. Anyhow, if I do go out to Canada, I will bear in mind what you have said. Now you must excuse me. Good day."

"Back to Nature" need not mean wearing sandals and eating grass.

Get back to Nature's way of ensuring health and strength by the common-sense plan of eating delicious

Quaker Oats

The great food value and low cost of Quaker Oats make it the ideal food for those families who want to get the greatest good from what they eat.

Forty platefuls cost sixpence! Cook as directed on packet.

30 JB

A HUMOROUS POEM
ENTITLED
"A SPANKING DREAM"
The Dream of a Militant Suffragette!

The poem describes a Suffragette's amusing (yet "*painful!*") dream. She dreams she is the first to be captured by the police, *and dealt with* under a "new law" which has very hurriedly come into operation at the hands of a "harassed" Premier! The nature of the alarming "new law" is shown in the title! The desperate struggle in the cell—the forcible "preparation"—the leather tawse—the whipping—are vividly drawn!

Secure this for Suffragete Friends!

PRICE 6d. Send P.O., not stamps.

S. C. FIELD Exchange Buildings, HIGH STREET, Stratford-on-Avon.

Oil for the Empire from the Empire.

ALL INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE British Colonies by the Exploitation of the Oil Resources of the Empire should write as below for particulars of Oil Development in the British Colonies.

GEO. MACDONALD, 560-1, Salisbury House, London, E.C.

AFTER RUBBER—OIL.

PORTRAITS OF EVERYBODY
CONNECTED WITH
THE BOAT RACE AND BOXING.
"LOTINGA'S WEEKLY."
RACING NOTES AND SELECTIONS.
Now on Sale. 1d.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See page iii. of Cover.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-reported for "John Bull.")

By Richard Morton.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

ALLEGED CRUELTY.—DOES IT HURT TO BE KILLED?

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had a field day at the South-Eastern Court, making one of its brightest efforts to secure a conviction in a case where it never had the ghost of a chance.

Charles Scales, fishmonger, of 2 and 1, Tailpiece Road, Battersea, answered to a summons before Mr. De Green, for "that he did while having a certain animal in captivity cause it unnecessary suffering."

Mr. Pole Cat prosecuted for the Society, and said the proceedings were taken under the Wild Animals in Captivity Act. The defendant had ill-treated an eel by actually disembowelling it when alive. He called an eel an animal because the Act defined the word as including bird, beast, fish, or reptile. And an eel was a fish.

Magistrate: Do you say an eel is a fish because it has a gill?

Mr. Pole Cat: It also has a fin.

Magistrate: So has a lizard. I should not call a lizard a fish. But go on.

Mr. Pole Cat: It also has a tail.

Magistrate: So has a horse.

Mr. Pole Cat said defendant had disembowelled an eel when alive, and it seemed to suffer pain. He maintained that the head of the eel should have been first removed, as with the severance of the spinal cord all sensibility would cease.

Magistrate: Many persons know that, in killing a chicken, if you chop its head off, the fowl is quite likely to run round the yard afterwards.

Mr. Pole Cat: That is entirely muscular action.

Magistrate: You think there is no sense of pain? A lady tells me that after the head of an eel had been removed she put her finger into the mouth, and the jaws, closing, clenched it.

Mr. Pole Cat: More muscular action. It could not be sensibility, or my case would go by the board.

Mr. Bolus, M.R.C.V.S., gave a medical opinion in support of the summons. He said all feelings and sensibility came from the brain. The splitting up of the body would cause death, but pain as well. Cutting off the head caused death, but no pain.

Magistrate: I cannot quite accept that, for fish are strange creatures and the heads are against you as evidence. I know that a pike with three hooks in its gullet would still eat other fish. Perhaps that is only muscular action?

Another doctor gave evidence for the Society, but the Magistrate said he was not convinced. If an eel had to be killed, he thought that splitting it up from its tail was as humane a method as cutting its head off. He believed the Japanese preferred disembowelling as a means of committing suicide. He had no personal preference in any way, but he could not overlook the commonsense view of the matter, and the summons must be dismissed.

The defendant's solicitor asked for costs. He thought his client, a respectable tradesman, as kindly a man as ever lived, should not have been troubled in this way.

The Magistrate allowed one guinea costs.

MORE "CRUELTY."—WHAT IT MAY COME TO.

William Canterbury, a butcher, was charged with cruelty to animals, in that he had killed a bullock with a pole-axe, a sheep by sticking a knife in its neck, and a pig by cutting its throat.

Counsel prosecuting on behalf of the Society for Interfering with Other People's Business contended that the correct way to kill all animals was to cut their heads off at a single blow. All feeling ceased when the spinal cord was severed. Therefore defendant and all other butchers ought to keep a guillotine in working order in their slaughter-houses.

The Magistrate said he was afraid the Society had bitten off more than it could chew when it sought to prove such a theory. He had much pleasure in dismissing the case, with costs.

THE FOLLY OF IT!

To spend several guineas on a new suit when just 45 pence will make your old one almost as new. For that's all it costs to have a suit scientifically dry-cleaned in the Achille Serre way.

It may be stained—it may be out of shape—it may even be frayed and worn. We can remove the stains, press and repair the garments so skilfully that you will be able to wear them for a long time to come.

Drop us a postcard to-day for the address of our nearest branch or agency and a copy of "Clothes and the Man."

ACHILLE SERRE, LTD.

(Nettoyage a Sec),

Hackney Wick, London, E.

'PHONE 1168 EAST.

Carriage paid one way on orders sent direct.

SEED POTATOES.

Working Men and Allotment Holders buy your Seed Potatoes from the right firm at the right prices.

	56 lb.	cwt.		56 lb.	cwt.
Sharpe's Victor	3/3	6/-	Duke of Cornwall	2/-	3/6
Myatt	3/3	6/-	President	2/-	3/6
May Queen	3/3	6/-	Dalmeny Hero	2/-	3/6
Duke of York	3/3	6/-	Scottish Tri	2/-	3/3
Ninety Fold	3/3	6/-	Lord Dundonald	2/-	3/3
Windsor Castle	3/3	6/-	King Edward VII.	2/-	3/3
Early Rose	3/3	5/6	Sir J. Llewellyn	2/-	3/-
Early Puritan	3/3	5/6	Royal Kidney	2/-	3/-
Beauty of Hebron	3/3	5/6	British Queen	2/-	3/-
Snowdrop	2/6	4/6	Pioneer	2/-	3/-
Epicure	2/3	3/9	Radium	2/-	3/-
Eclipse	2/-	3/6	Evergood	2/-	3/-
Sharpe's Express	2/-	3/6	Up-to-Date	2/-	3/-
Table Talk	2/-	3/6	Dalmeny Acme	2/-	3/-
Factor	2/-	3/6	Eating Potatoes	1/9	3/-

All Varieties 1/- per stone. Sacks free for cash with order. Free on Rail. Sent to any address immediately on receipt of P.O. Send for full Price List of Potatoes, Peas, and Beans, and particulars of our Cash Prize Competition. Telephone and Telegraph Peas, 6d. pint, 11d. quart.

S. L. CURTIS (83), Anchor Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

5/- MONTHLY

I give considerably better value, grant much longer credit, and offer far easier payment terms, than anyone else.

You can buy from me brand new latest pattern—SWIFT, ROVER, COVENTRY-CHALLENGE, TRIUMPH, REMINGTON, PREMIER, PROGRESS, CENTAUR, QUADRANT, ROVER, SINGER, and other high-grade Coventry cycles at 5/- monthly. A small deposit only has to be paid before the machine is despatched, and I guarantee satisfaction or refund your money.

HIGH-GRADE COVENTRY CYCLES from £2 10s cash

WRITE FOR LISTS TO-DAY.

Edwd. O'Brien, Ltd. 12 Years' Guarantee.

The World's Largest Cycle Dealer, (Dept. 193), Coventry

GOVERNMENT and MUNICIPAL EXAMINATIONS.

Those desiring to qualify for Civil Service, or for Sanitary, Factory, Weights and Measures Inspectorships or as Lady Health Visitors, School Nurses, etc., should write for guide to Secretary, Sanitary Training College, 338 High Holborn, London.

CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES ACT.

Increase your trade. Convert your Business into a Private Limited Company and obtain fresh capital. Particulars free. Apply James Fraser, Ltd., 14, New Oxford Street, London, W.C. (Established 20 years.)

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

A Man's Reason.

My remarks about violet being almost universally men's favourite colour have elicited a most interesting reply from a scientific man-reader, who undertakes to explain this phenomenon, reasonably and not sentimentally.

Asserting at the start that violet is the coolest of all the colours, and has far the most soothing effect upon the retina, and, consequently, upon the brain's emotional centres, he goes on to explain how, when several pieces of wax are placed under glasses tinted variously the primary colours, the piece placed under the violet melts last of all, that under red first. Also when a person born blind by some chance or by an operation receives his sight, the first colour shown to him is violet, and, after it, blue. Red or orange would violently disturb him, and would even produce nausea. My correspondent also thinks that this colour pre-eminently suggests one of the sweetest and most popular of flowers, and, incidentally, one of the most beautiful of woodland scents. He adds, in conclusion:—

"A nicely-designed costume with a nice girl inside it always attracts a man's fancy, but much more so when the above-mentioned reasons help to strengthen the impression. All the causes act spontaneously on the emotional centres of the brain with the result that, unconsciously, the effect of admiration is generated in the heart of man." I am much obliged to my correspondent, and think his scientific explanation especially interesting because in it he assumes without question that men like to be "soothed," and like "cool" colours. If this is a fact, and evidently it is so, why don't we follow out the hint in other ways as well as by wearing violet? Please let all modern, loud-voiced, emphatic, athletic girls take note, and, if they aspire to be admired, curb the hard-speaking voices which have become such an ugly vogue of late. Also let all pushing, eager, rouged, and over-jewelled ladies mend their ways, and become serene and soft and cool—if they can. It would be rather nice to start a cult or order of Violet Women, and see the result on some of the most rabid vulgarians.

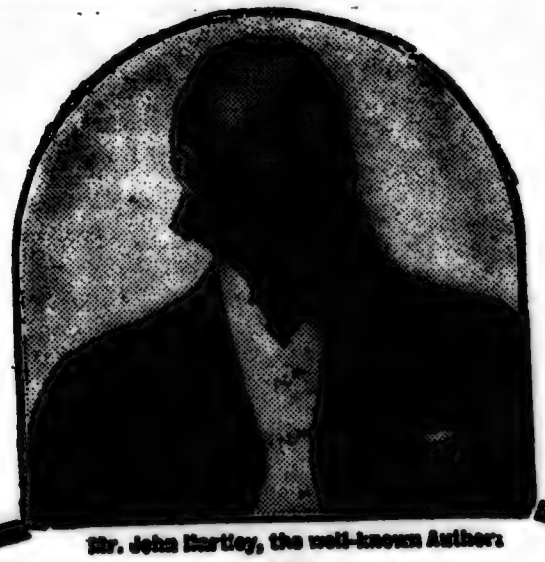
Ribbons Revived.

Most of us, I think, contemplate the now certain prospect of ribbon-trimmed hats with joy and relief, after the horrible ruination in tulle and fairy feathers and white ospreys of last year's wet summer. Not but that we are promised a very different season this year; still, so many of us now lead such an open-air life that we are glad of any fashion which allows us to wear unspoilable things which are also pretty, and certainly ribbon is one of these. No other hat decoration allows you to take it off after a wetting, put it on again, and remain serenely the same as it looked when bought. The big massive bunches of ribbon loops which decorate many of the bell-shaped toques are effective and serviceable; and the large flat hats whose crowns are covered with long ribbon loops that fall in a cascade half-way over the brim, too, are most becoming to large-featured women, or to those no longer childishly young. One of these, in fine black straw, with a cascade of Nattier-blue ribbon, and a large pink rose and leaves tucked carelessly in at one side, half under the bows, is very pretty. Or green loops and a white rose would be hard to beat for coolness of effect on a hot day. Another joy about this artistic and simple fashion is its adaptability to the powers of home-milliners. Almost any girl with a little skill could trim such a hat satisfactorily, and the cost would depend simply on the quality of the ribbon used.

The Whist Drive Tyranny.

Of all the strange social phases that we have gone through during the last ten years, I think the most utterly unexplainable is the wild craze—in the suburbs, for it rarely happens elsewhere—for whist drives or progressive whist parties. The Society Bridge mania, with its clear opportunities for gambling, was more understandable, though, of course, reprehensible. Mad rinking, wild dancing, desperate theatrical societies, choral societies, or tennis-clubs, even to some extent bazaars, are all easy to understand, since they all allow, even encourage, people to meet and make friends and have some sort of a good time—naturally, the *raison d'être* for their very existence. But the suburban whist drive, unless it is raised strictly amongst friends who are friends before it, is the most appallingly unfriendly thing in the name of an entertainment that the mind of the snob can conceive. It is usually got together for some "good cause," and, therefore, to swell the proceeds, all local persons who can afford a two-and-sixpenny ticket are pressed into the service. They arrive, poor things, in their best lace blouses and voile skirts, with ribbons in their hair; or the men in their evening or best Sunday suits, all individually expecting an evening's amusement, no doubt.

But, alas! they are dumped down at a table with three other victims (unintroduced) and are doomed to race through a round in frosty silence, rung off in three minutes by a little bell, and herded violently by a savage officer to another table to repeat the same performance twenty times over, without stopping. After two hours of it, they may perhaps find themselves so fortunate as to have won a hat-pin stand or a glass flower-vase, or a piperack. And then they are herded out and the doors shut!



Mr. John Hartley, the well-known Author.

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JOHN HARTLEY
of the "Clock Almanac" says:
"It is My Favourite Medicine."

MR. JOHN HARTLEY, the celebrated Yorkshire poet and author of the "Clock Almanac," etc., etc., an old gentleman 70 years of age, writing from 11, Sea View-avenue, Liscard, Cheshire, says:—"For many years I have used Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and always found it a perfect remedy for coughs, colds, and bronchial troubles. It has never failed to cure me, and is my favourite medicine."

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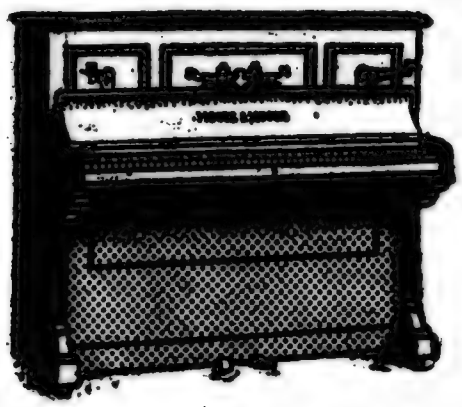

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THE HURLY BURLY.

By Theodore Dahle.

UNPAID MAGISTRATES AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

Whenever a Government are desirous of shelving any awkward question, they usually appoint a Royal Commission to consider it, and when these Royal Commissioners have sat to consider it for a very long time, they usually issue two written solutions, one being a Majority Report, as it is called, and the other a Minority Report. In the main, each of these reports contradicts the other; so that when a Government are ripe for dealing with the question any time within the next half-a-century, they look up the proceedings of that Commission, and either appoint a new one or shove the two solutions back among the archival spiders and invent a solution of their own.

For all I know to the contrary, the Royal Commission on the Selection of Justices of the Peace may prove an exception to this rule. But here are the facts as I see them. By law, the Lord Chancellor is empowered to select the justices. The Lord Chancellor is a member of the Government, and the Government appoint a Royal Commission to discover how the Lord Chancellor selects them. Knowing what I do of the many flint-hearted, woolly-headed, muddy-minded justices on the Commission of the Peace, I have often wondered, like the gentleman who first saw flies in amber, "how the devil they got there." Judging solely by results, it might perhaps be thought that they somehow crawled in when the Lord Chancellor—I mean any Lord Chancellor—was not looking. The facts appear to be that in the counties the Lord Lieutenant collects the names and the Lord Chancellor's secretary sorts them out, and that in the boroughs the two political parties put their heads together and arrange a list which also goes to the Lord Chancellor's secretary for the similar exercise of his ingenuity. If the Tories are in power, more Tories get on to the bench, and when the Liberals are in power they find the bench so full up that Liberals are crowded out for want of space.

In actual practice, you can hardly hope to be a J.P. unless you have done a considerable deal of shouting for one political party or the other. You can get on if you are a teetotaler, or a soldier, or a sailor, or a journalist, or a professional Nonconformist, or an expert in jam, marmalade, or cocoa, but not if you are a publican. On the whole I think it is a very horrible thing to be a publican in this country. He seems to be only in business for the accumulation of worry and the disbursement of profits for the advantage of the national exchequer. As Mr. Henderson, the ex-leader of the Labour Party, put it to Lord Dartmouth at a meeting of the Commission, a magistrate who is a publican "might have to try a poor unfortunate man to whom he had sold the liquor which made him drunk." It is an ingenious hypothesis; but, on the whole, it is not convincing. Indeed, it seems as unreasonable to disqualify a publican from sitting on the bench because one of his customers has been fool enough to drink too much as it would be to disqualify a teetotal lay-preacher because one of his congregation has vanished with the collection-box.

One witness before the Commission strongly objects to the appointment of magistrates in the retail line. Thus it is good for the cause of justice that a man who sells tea and bacon by the ton should be on the bench, but not good in the case of one who sells them by half-pounds. Surely every man competent in heart and head, and especially in heart, whatever his politics, whatever his business or social position, whatever his professed religion, should be qualified as Justice so that he be one who has proved his worth before his fellow-citizens.

I can conceive no public work more delicate, more responsible, more honourable for a man of leisure than the exercise of the functions of magistracy among his fellows.

LONDON AND RHODESIAN MINING AND LAND.

Resolution to Increase Capital Carried Unanimously.

At the extraordinary general meeting of the London and Rhodesian Mining and Land Company, held to pass the necessary resolutions for increasing the capital of the company, Major S. Weil, the chairman, gave a short resumé of the company's progress since its registration on May 13th, 1909. After describing in detail the company's holdings, options and interests, including the Cam and Motor Mines, the Linnet claims, and upwards of 1,110 claims (mostly in the attractive Mount Darwin district), most of which, he said, carried fairly consistent values and were regarded by experts as very valuable, he said that the first-named three properties should at least make a profit for the parent company equal to the whole of its capital. In addition, they had the Perseverance Mine, in the Enterprise district, and had acquired a substantial interest in the Southern Rhodesia Mining Syndicate and an interest in the Rouge and Lonely Mines.

They started with about £110,000, and, after liberal expenditure in connection with developments, now had out at call about £78,000 in cash, in addition to securities worth another £59,000. Under the resolution, the shareholders would be entitled to a *pro rata* allotment of one share in three, which would carry with it the valuable option over a like number of shares at 4s. The cash position would thus be improved by a further £225,000. In his opinion it was essential that the company should have a strong cash position.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

I CURE RUPTURE

NO FURTHER USE FOR TRUSSES.

If you are ruptured or know of anyone suffering from rupture, you should interest yourself at once in my Method of Cure. My plan differs from all others in the fact that it not only retains any kind of rupture continually and securely with perfect comfort, but causes new flesh to form in the ruptural opening, thus binding the broken place firmly, and producing an absolutely perfect and permanent cure. No other Method does his. I have proved again and again that I can cure rupture even after two operations have failed to cure. Mr. Wm. Edwards, Brook Cottage, Taffs Well, via Cardiff who was soundly cured at the age of 53 years, says, "I am writing to thank you for the wonderful cure I have received through your Treatment after suffering **30 years from a double rupture. I am completely cured, and have not worn any truss this four years. I have given it a good test, and am as strong as ever.**"

Mr. Wm. Edwards.

This case is one of the many thousands which have entirely dispensed with a truss after using my Method of curing rupture—a thoroughly tried method that has cured every kind and condition of rupture in men, women and children, the labouring man as well as the gentleman of leisure, at home, without pain, danger, operation or loss of time, and at a small cost.

A very valuable treatise on Rupture has just been issued, which will enable any sufferer to know as much about the true nature of Rupture as any ordinary Doctor. It also explains fully the process of cure, and will show you just what to do to be cured. A cure will mean freedom from suffering and years of comfort added to the length of your life. I desire to place a copy in the hands of every ruptured person, for the great benefit I know it will be to them. For the immediate relief of all ruptured people a sample treatment and complete detail will be sent free (sealed and post paid) to all who write within the next 20 days. Address WILLIAM S. RICE, R.S., Ltd. G.P.O. Box No. 5 (B 1343), 8 & 9, STONECUTTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

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THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Toymaker of Nuremberg."

For the introduction to the London public of Miss Margery Maude, the cleverly trained and extremely intelligent daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, what more sweetly innocent and prettily sentimental play could have possibly been selected, on this momentous occasion, than Mr. Austin Strong's "Toymaker of Nuremberg"?

In Germany, romance still holds its own, and exercises a powerful influence over the lives of most of its men and women. A German will indeed dare all for his "love-lady" as Mr. Strong cleuts to call the "Girl" in his charming story. He will never allow her for an instant to forget him. On her window-sill she will find dew-drenched roses, placed there when and how he alone can tell her. A bird will fly into her room with a "breath of love" hanging by a golden thread to its feathered throat. A satin lined case will arrive containing a heart made of fragrant orange-blooms, and I cannot tell you the hundred and one ways that a German insists upon, in order to prove that his "love-lady" is for ever being thought of and watched over by her "love-lad." I have never known poetic devotion to equal it in any other country in the world.

In his Anglo-German play "The Toymaker of Nuremberg" Mr. Austin Strong brings out with the intense humanity of a modern William Makepeace Thackeray, the exquisite tenderness of the "Boy" for the "Girl," and the tale, a very simple, pure and straightforward one, is made deeply impressive and beautiful by the earnest, unstagey, and admirable interpretation of all its sympathetic characters.

Mr. Cyril Maude's "Toymaker" is a wonderfully charming study—his voice alone, with its shaky, quavering notes, makes for tears, and reminds me not a little of yet another toymaker, played by poor old Johnnie Toole years ago in his tiny King William Street theatre, where a part of the Charing Cross Hospital now stands in its place.

I am glad to know that playgoers who have not yet had the opportunity of seeing Austin Strong's idyllic work, may still have the chance to do so, for Mr. Maude has added a further number of matinées to the six already announced, and on March 31st, April 5th, 7th, and 12th, the play will again be repeated.

Such a welcome contribution to the stage, and positive triumph in the way of naturalism in art, should not be permitted to be placed on one side, for you seem to rise from such scenes of heart and home more inclined to be kind to your neighbours and less quarrelsome with mankind in general.

Give us many such plays, please, Mr. Strong, we need them all.

Bogus Managers.

There is a lot of ink being sprayed about over the mighty question of what should or should not be done to prevent the recurrence of any future catastrophe, such as happened recently at the Strand Theatre. Up to the present moment the Actors' Association, although it was presumably formed for the protection of artists, has failed to put an end to this disgraceful practice on the part of unscrupulous persons.

In Mr. Cecil Raleigh's letter published last Sunday, he says that a down-at-heel actor, hiring a decent suit of clothes so that he should make a respectable appearance when presenting himself to a would-be manager, is not in a position to question his employer's financial means.

I quite agree with my friend Cecil, but could not the whole of the "dirty business" be stopped by the A.A. if it chose, by the simple means of setting its solicitor—and it has one—to work to make all the necessary enquiries? The very fact that the A.A. undertook to do this would surely make people less inclined to be shown up and so decrease the number of bogus managements immediately. Could not the A.A. keep a *dossier* of everybody connected with the stage so that their record could be traced at once when questions were asked? *Does it do this?* The poverty that exists in the out-of-work theatrical profession is piteous. I know that not many weeks ago an actor—and a good one too—who day after day had trudged about trying to get some sort of a salary to keep his diminutive home from being sold up, received a message to say his wife had been suddenly taken ill. The man had not even the railway fare in his pocket to get to her, and sooner than borrow—for a kind fellow did offer to lend him the money—he went to the different theatres and recited to the crowds waiting outside the doors of the theatres for admission until he was "moved on" by a policeman. In this way he managed to collect four and ninepence, and so was able to get to his wife's sick bed. May I add that this is one of the many who has also suffered in the Strand calamity.

"THE MAJOR."

With reference to our recent paragraph respecting a St. Albans "Turf Accountant" styling himself "The Major," and in which, in the absence of any name being given on the circular which was the subject of our comment, we assumed that he was identical with F. W. Beston, alias "John Bull," we are informed that such is not the case, and that his name is J. L. Mayger.

THERE is going to be a big demand for this collar. As an appropriate and becoming shape for business and general wear, and for men of almost every age, it is hard to find its equal. Its merits have already been proved.

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Tevia Tweed, alone amongst cloths, bears a similar warranty in the form of the trade mark stamped on the back of every length, the Scottish manufacturers guarantee of the purity and high quality of Tevia All-Wool Tweed.

All the best Tailors stock Tevia Tweed.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

Correspondents are requested not to send original certificates, testimonials, etc., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

A. G. (London, W.C.) writes: — "Aggressive womanhood does want to keep its present legal privileges and add the following:—Taxation of bachelors, but not spinsters; payment by husbands to wives of a weekly wage; that husbands should be compelled to make provision for wives in their wills, as in New Zealand; but they do not ask that wives should be compelled to make similar provisions for husbands." Very wrong of them, to be sure.

Knowlite (Bristol).—We cannot fix a date just at present for our President, but hope to be with you before long.

A. L. (London, S.W.).—It is not unusual for commission agents to get into difficulties and have to ask for the indulgence of their customers. You always have the remedy of posting them at Tattersall's if you want to punish them.

F. B. (Hornsey Road).—We thought we had killed "Keith Harvey" when we smashed him up under the alias of "Arnold and Butler." A man named Marr is the proprietor of "Keith Harvey."

C. S. B. (Ilford).—Our enormous poster was painted by hand in oils, by Mr. Rowland Holyoake.

W. V. (Aberdeen) loves and cherishes Dr. Barnardo's Home. He is evidently of a grateful disposition.

S. J. B. (Aldershot) recently applied for membership of the local Conservative Working Men's Club, paying his subscription of 3s.; but on the following day he was informed that his application had been rejected on the ground that he was "only a private soldier," and now he cannot, he says, get back his 3s.—which is surely adding injury to insult.

W. S. (Birmingham) tells us that a local Lodge of Ancient Buffaloes, having made a collection for the benefit of poor children, sent some tickets to the Rev. Mr. Benson, Vicar of St. Clement's Church, who returned them on the ground that he could not accept them because "they came from a public house." We wonder what the little kiddies who were thus deprived of relief will have to say?

T. J. S. (Sheffield), like ourselves, would much rather that the foreigner should pay all our expenses—but how can he be made to do it? One difference between land and shares is that however much people require of the former, its quantity can never be increased, whilst the latter can be issued *ad lib.* Sir Edward Grey is too timid.

W. G. R. (Harleston).—We have not enquired into Mr. Asquith's religious opinions. They concern only himself.

D. S. (Swansea) says that when he said "seven out of every ten of our adult elementary teachers are untrained," he meant they had not been students in a training college. As he writes from a training college himself, he is, perhaps, prejudiced.

J. B. (London, S.E.) wants to know if any person or society will assist him out to Canada, but is he sure that he would be any better off there?

F. C. F. (South Hampstead) calls our attention to the conduct of "two gentlemen" who were saved from the river at Kingston-on-Thames, and left a shilling as reward for the services of their rescuers. He expresses the hope that they may both have a bad attack of rheumatic fever. He supposes that they do not think their lives were worth more than they paid. Personally, we should doubt whether they were worth as much.

G. H. (London).—We understand that the Mansion House Paris Floods Fund amounted to upwards of £62,000. Of this, £35,000 was sent to the French Government; £10,000 to the French Red Cross Society; £10,000 to the Prefect of the Seine; £2,000 to the British Charitable Fund; £1,000 to the Archbishop of Paris; and between £300 and £400 dispersed in other ways. You will therefore see there has been no favouritism in the matter.

"Bloxholm" (Planting).—We do not take upon ourselves the responsibility of recommending any of these schools of advertising.

G. E. (London) protests against the idea that the City Temple congregation approved of a prayer for the death of Mr. Chamberlain. "The congregation of the City Temple," he says, "is the most genuinely broadminded congregation in London, and will tolerate anything but intolerance." We are delighted to hear it.

THE LOTUS is the most ambitious conception of a boot yet made in a factory. The finest leather that tanneries can yield, and the highest skill acquired in bootmaking are exhibited in every pair. No limits have been placed upon quality of leather or work, the fixed aim being to produce the best regardless of cost. Lotus are made slowly and thoroughly; they pass through hands and processes that place the boots in a class by themselves.

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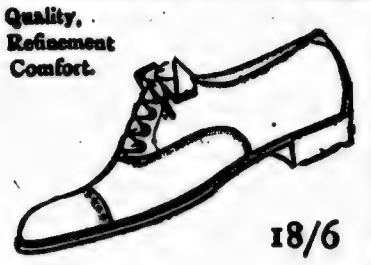

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IRISH TWEED SUIT

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I guarantee the wear, the style, the perfect fit, and the high grade fitments. Each suit is cut to your individual requirements. I do not "factory tailor" it. It is really a suit made to your measurements, not a ready-made cut down and sewn up to fit you. My price is

50s.

and I "money back" each garment in such a way that you have complete control of your money till you are satisfied; you simply post-date your money order ten days, this allows you to have the suit home and examine it carefully. If you think it full value, keep it; if not, stop your order and send the suit back. That protects you.

In the face of such an offer, don't you think you should see these patterns? Will you send for them?—NOW—You'll have a large selection back by return.

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When a prospective Client writes to us, or to any other firm of Stock and Share Dealers, his judgment is naturally influenced by the character of the reply he gets, and by subsequent communications. As, of course, he has no personal experience of us to guide him, the prospective Client welcomes the experience of others. The ambiguous phrases of Competitors—"Clients have Made Money." "Clients Do Make Money." "It is Possible to Make £ (?) with £ (?)"; "Money Made and Paid Daily"—are unsatisfying, if not actually repellent to the business man as being indefinite. We give you, without embellishment, the business dealings of Clients. There is only one way of giving you the results of business dealings, and that is by figures. Such figures are satisfying or they are not satisfying. Below, however, we give you the figures relating to the business Transactions of several Clients with us. They are taken quite without any process of selection from thousands of accounts from our ledgers, and we leave you to form your own conclusion whether it will pay you to deal with us.

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63423	C.W.	20	0	0
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6014	„	8	0	0
9053	„	6	0	0
9148	„	18	0	0
9222	„	6	0	0
9287	„	22	18	4
9333	„	10	0	0
10177	„	6	10	0
10203	„	10	18	8
10340	„	15	10	0
11029	„	14	7	6
11228	„	15	2	8
11340	„	17	0	0
11526	„	22	0	0
12347	„	22	17	6
9376	„	38	0	0
9416	„	40	0	0
Total ...		£299	4	8

Cheque.		£	s.	d.
360	J.J.C.	30	0	0
440	„	48	15	0
1029	„	38	15	0
1267	„	160	0	0
1511	„	6	10	0
1629	„	22	10	0
1735	„	14	2	0
1783	„	10	0	0
2615	„	6	5	0
8492	„	10	10	0
14572	„	15	0	0
Total ...		£357	7	0

Cheque.		£	s.	d.
2318	H.M.	74	15	0
4091	„	24	0	0
4729	„	29	0	0
2944	„	8	0	0
5113	„	24	0	0
5147	„	12	0	0
6924	„	48	5	0
4097	„	8	0	0
4407	„	35	0	0
4765	„	12	0	0
13515	„	9	19	2
4398	„	28	0	0
Total ...		£312	19	2

Cheque.		£	s.	d.
1301	G.S.M.	30	17	6
3072	„	39	12	9
3180	„	39	12	9
8639	„	38	0	0
8658	„	30	0	0
8751	„	25	0	0
8923	„	9	16	10
10226	„	11	12	6
10448	„	14	3	9
14182	„	21	10	0
Total ...		£254	16	1

Cheque.		£	s.	d.
2254	J.W.M.	7	10	0
4171	„	8	0	0
4809	„	9	0	0
2862	„	17	0	0
5593	„	6	0	0
6105	„	8	0	0
6315	„	24	0	0
7208	„	18	0	0
7463	„	21	10	0
8093	„	14	0	0
9166	„	24	0	0
12802	„	19	10	0
Total ...		£176	10	0

Cheque.		£	s.	d.
1647	C.J.W	17	15	0
1916	„	27	0	0
2153	„	57	7	6
2609	„	145	0	0
3198	„	6	5	0
3612	„	18	0	0
3689	„	48	0	0
3800	„	43	10	0
4128	„	31	0	0
4316	„	14	0	0
4496	„	16	17	11
4688	„	22	0	0
4857	„	16	10	4
5224	„	62	10	0
2900	„	55	0	0
5325	„	18	6	0
6159	„	29	1	3
6244	„	38	7	0
6700	„	109	5	0
6922	„	100	0	0
7102	„	138	11	3
1356	„	41	5	0
7401	„	10	17	11
7521	„	25	12	0
Total ...		£1,087	1	8

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.

But we do not ask you on the strength of these figures, or of any figures, to start business transactions with us. We desire that you will make investigation into the methods of our business first. An enquiry on the Form will bring a communication from us, giving you particulars of the System of Business, originated by us, which is so eminently successful in its financial results to Clients.

A REQUEST TO READERS.

We ask you to fill in the Coupon at side and post to us. We shall then be able to put our business to you in a practical way. You are under no obligation to do business with us, of course, if we do not convince you that our system of money making is distinct from and superior to all others in similar businesses. If you wish to have the opportunity of making substantial sums with little or no outlay, liability limited, profits unlimited, Fill In and Post Coupon.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

To the Secretary NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques, totalling £347,330, which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title)

J. B. 158.

ADDRESS IN FULL.....

.....

Please Write Distinctly

DATE.....

This and all our advertisements are copyright.

S. P. F. (Brighton) is amused to read that Mr. Eugene Wason, M.P., occupies his spare time in making socks. Pehaps he intends to give them to the Government one of these days.

B. W. B. (Notting Hill Gate) rejoices to read that at the Spelthorne Licensing Sessions recently, an application for a grocer's licence to sell beer and spirits was supported by the vicar and curate of the parish. We are getting on!

J. B. (Union Jack Club) thinks we were a little unfair upon Admiral Neville in reference to the stoppage of beer to the ship's company after coaling operations, and gives us various information which somewhat modifies the case.

T. T. (Paddington) sends further instances of hardship of treatment on the part of the L.G.O. Company towards its employees—especially the omnibus drivers. We suppose the Company is going through a severe ordeal, but they ought not to forget those upon whom they have relied for success in the past.

J. E. (Greenock) says that he "had a win of 100 to 1 on Saturday March 5th" on a bet with W. A. Dew and Co., but they took no notice of his repeated applications for payment, but calmly sent coupons for the following week. We have removed their advertisement.

G. R. (Hull) says he sent his remittance to Dew by registered letter, but also received no reply to his requests for payment when he won.

"Scottie" (Ottawa).—We always allow a reasonable extension of time to foreign and Colonial residents in which to claim under the Ballot Scheme, but to save misunderstanding have now made it quite clear in the announcements. We are now taking steps to push the sale of the paper in the Colonies and abroad.

Mr. Colin F. Campbell, the Hon. Social Secretary of the Church Army, informs us that the practice of the "Army" with regard to married relief, is to pay to a man who is given temporary employment at wood-chopping the full value of the work done by him, at trade rates. In addition to this, says Mr. Campbell, the man is given a bonus in proportion to the number of children dependent upon him. This bonus varies from 50 to 100 per cent. of the amount earned, but in no case is a man allowed to receive for wages and bonus more than 4s. a day.

Apropos recent complaints about the treatment by the L. and N. Western Railway Co. of its men, we are assured that the Company is loyally carrying out the Award of the Arbitrator, and that so far as the men's own organ, *The Railway Review*, is concerned, complaints have practically ceased. We are sorry we cannot spare further space to deal with the matter at present.

W. J. S. (Southampton).—Assuming the facts to be as you state them, it would have been better if Mr. Oakley had not been on the Bench when the question of the Flowers Commercial and Family Hotel license came up for consideration.

Major A. Tudor Craig, Secretary of the Veterans' Relief Fund, apropos a par which recently appeared in this journal, says that all veterans who receive an allowance to the extent of 5s. only have already an Army Pension of at least 7s. per week, and, therefore, when they are awarded an old age pension of 5s. in addition to their Army Pension, they have practically reached the limit allowed under the Old Age Pensions Act, and that, consequently, if they were to continue to receive an allowance from the Fund they would not be entitled to their Old Age Pensions.

E. M. B. (Marlow).—Fancy asking *us* to decide whether John Bull or the *Daily Chronicle* is in the right!

"Hospital Humbug."—We have received many letters in reference to our recent article under this title, taking all views of the matter, but we regret we have no further space available at present.

"Bell-Ringing."—Ditto.

A. P. G. (London).—"Dagonet," when speaking of "a good Englishman and a good Liberal" in the sentence you sent us, was, we think, referring to Mr. Asquith, and not to himself.

F. P. W. (New York).—No smoke without fire, they say, but you must remember the Liberal party is the champion of temperance.

R. R. (Edinburgh) wants information regarding the Gospel Union Orphanage and Homes of that city, run by a Mrs. McKay and a Mrs. Robb.

Charles Gardner, of Reading, wishes it to be known that he is in no way associated with the C. Gardener who was recently included in our Football Black List.

Will the subject of "Human Document VII.," which appeared in John Bull of March 30, 1907, send us his present address?

F. E. (Perth) and several others, apropos a recent paragraph in our paper, point out that the late Captain Boycott was not the author, but the first victim, of what has come to be known as "boycotting."

(*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*)

TRADE NOTE.

So long as the bicycle runs well, no cyclist likes parting with his machine. Still, modern inventions cannot be ignored, and no wise man cares to ride a bicycle which, though it runs as well as ever it did, lacks the recent improvements which make present-day cycling such a delightful exercise. There are two courses open to the cyclist who owns an old machine—to sell it and buy a new one, or *to bring his old bicycle up-to-date*. The latter alternative is the least expensive. It only costs one guinea to have a Villiers Two-Speed Gear fitted on an old bicycle, and this invention is, perhaps, the most important bicycle improvement of recent years. The Villiers Co., Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, will, we understand, send any reader of John Bull a copy of their booklet, which contains most valuable information for cyclists who wish to bring their machines up-to-date at a minimum of cost.

Wayford Tenants Ltd.

Co-partnership Housing and Small Holdings Society combined with which is a demonstration Danish Small Holding. The Capital invested in existing Registered Co-partnership Housing Societies now amounts to over £532,000 Applications solicited for Share and Loan Capital at 3 per cent. and 4 per cent respectively for the above Society.

Full particulars from the Secretary, SMALLBURGH, NORFOLK.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Do you ever realise how very little will make your stomach lose tone and strength? If you neglect your meals, or dine, "not wisely but too well"; even if you start worrying about anything, your stomach and liver are almost sure to get out of order. Many a stomach, indeed, has lost the power to digest food, through a change in the weather!

Now, how is it with you? Is your stomach too weak to digest food? Is Indigestion punishing you with pains or wind in the stomach, headache, biliousness, constipation, or a "run down" feeling? If so, you need the digestive tonic—Mother Seigel's Syrup. The medicinal, herbal extracts of which it is made, tone and strengthen the stomach and gently stimulate the action of the liver and bowels. This is the natural and sure way to cure stomach and liver troubles, the sure way to get nourishment from food, and the sure way to have health and strength. Test it yourself?

STRENGTHENS WEAK STOMACHS

STIMULATES SLUGGISH LIVERS
CURES INDIGESTION.

The 2/6 bottle contains three times as much as the 1/1½ size.

"MYSANTAL" TOOTH BRUSH.

Each Tuft set in Aluminium.
Loose Bristles Impossible.
OVER 1,000,000 IN DAILY USE.
Complete in Mica Case, with Brush for Cleansing.

1/6 & 2/-
ALL TEXTURES.

(*REGISTERED.*)
Each Genuine Brush stamped "MYSANTAL."

SPECIAL OFFER.
FILL IN COUPON.
Box of Mysantal Dental Preparations sent free if 3d. enclosed for packing and postage, or 1s. 6d. for Mysantal Tooth Brush.

Name.....
Address.....

MYSANTAL CO., 55, Berners St., London, W

Habit is Second Nature

—so, as you naturally wish to take care of your teeth, form the excellent habit of using

Calvert's Carbolic Tooth Powder

In tins, 6d., 1/- & 1/6; sprinkler jars, 1/- nett. For Free sample send 1d. stamp to F. C. Calvert & Co. (J. B. Dept.), Manchester.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Chief Office—ST. ANDREW STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Claims Paid Exceed £7,200,000
Invested Funds £2,000,000
Annual Income £1,400,000

LIFE AND ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES AT POPULAR RATES. WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

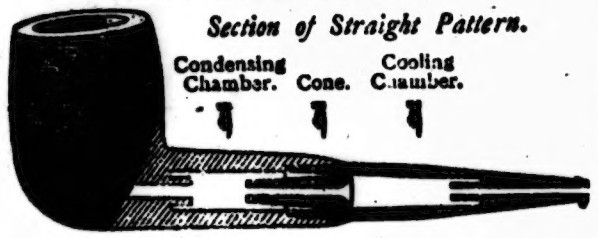
ARTHUR HENRI, Secretary.

Why the "Masta" is the perfect pipe

It absolutely prevents any nicotine or moisture from reaching the mouth or pipe-bowl. It smokes cool and dry. There are no parts to get out of order and the pipe can be easily cleaned. Note the two chambers which check and control the smoke, and prevent any burning or blistering of the tongue. The "Masta" is the perfect pipe for "wet" or "dry" smokers, and *can be thoroughly enjoyed by those who cannot smoke an ordinary pipe.*

Made of best selected briar.

Section of Straight Pattern.



Every pipe guaranteed.

Obtainable of all leading tobacconists. Price 2/6, 4/-, 5/6, 8/-, &c. Cheaper quality, 1/-. Write to day for free booklet, "Points on Pipes." Full of useful hints.

MASTA PIPE CO. (*Dept.* 9) 153 FLEET ST., LONDON, E.C.

The pleasure depends on the skate.

Only a smooth running, accurately made, reliable roller skate can give you the confidence essential to the true enjoyment of rinking. Buy a pair of the fast, easy running

'BRAMPTON' ROLLER SKATES.

Adjustable Model, Steel or Boxwood wheels, **15/-** per pair.

All sporting goods dealers sell the "BRAMPTON."

FREE. Send postcard to-day for booklet on "Art of Roller Skating."

Dept. 102, BRAMPTON BROS. Ltd., Birmingham.
Special Selling Agents:—
BROWN BROS., Great Eastern Street, London, E.C.

BOVRIL

"The Power of Beef is in Bovril."

WHITELEY'S

"Kildare Club" CYCLES.

at

£4 : 4 : 0

(12 Payments of 7/-)

are Still the World's Best Value in High Grade Cycles.

They include the best fitments: Dunlop Rubber Co.'s Scott Tyres Roller Lever Rim Brakes, Hyde Free Wheel, Appleby's Chain. EVERY CYCLE CARRIES A SIGNED GUARANTEE. Whiteleys are the only firm who supply Cycles by Easy Payments at Net Cash Prices, with NO EXTRA CHARGE for the Twelve Months Credit. Humbers, Raleighs, Swifts, James, B.S.A., New Hudsons, Singers, Elswicks, etc., etc. Call or write for Lists immediately—Post Free.

Record Cycles at £3 13 6 are the cheapest Reliable Cycles.

Royal Cycles at £5 5 0 (12 payments of 8/9) Dunlop Tyres, Perry Chain and Free Wheel.

Money back if not satisfied. Carriage Paid to any Station.

WHITELEY'S, Queen's Road, LONDON, W.

Please mention "John Bull."

Matchless Mixtures.

Just try any one of the following perfect blends if you wish to experience real pleasure from your pipe.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success.

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

Thomson & Porteous, Edinburgh.

SMARTNESS OF APPEARANCE

depends upon the observance of small details. A smart, trim moustache lends distinction to its owner.

HILL'S HONGROISE

will train the most obstinate moustache or beard, is free from grease, and is unaffected by damp weather. In 6d. Tubes, of all hairdressers, or if unobtainable, post free, from The County Chemical Co., Ltd., Chemical Works, Birmingham.

FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

"THE LAW OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS"

tells you in plain English how to make money and secure financial independence. It contains positive rules and instructions for every man and woman desirous of bettering their financial condition. The low price is but a fraction of its real value. Over 100,000 copies have already been sold. The book will be mailed post-paid promptly upon receipt of 6d.

6D.

SEND FOR IT TO-DAY.

The Fiduciary Co., 36, Century House, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of **Potter's Asthma Cure**, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

Special Positions for Special Men.

HAPGOODS have hundreds of Special Positions open—High-Grade Technical, Clerical, Organising and Travelling Positions carrying salaries ranging from £150–£1,000 a year, but, they are positions which can only be filled by men of Special Ability. If you are a man with more than the average amount of ability, and with a desire to realise your own true worth—write us to-day.

HAPGOODS, Ltd., 163–167, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
Barton Arcade, 15, Deansgate, Manchester
(Registered in Guernsey.)

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

An Unlucky Importation.

Solar System, a useful little horse in Farquharson's colours when racing here, has just died in India.

A Roaring Success.

I am indebted to many of my followers for their splendid support in regard to *Lotinga's Weekly*, which has brought about actual sales of 400,000 copies of the paper last week, and trade orders for over half a million of this week's Boat Race number. The capital of the company—160,000 shares—was also considerably over-subscribed.

Prophetic.

For a holiday dose we can have Plumpton's jumping on Saturday and Kempton on Monday. At the stick business, Quality Street, or Miss Nick—both winners on the course—may take the Hale Handicap—not very much reparation for Forerunner's Lincoln defeat, if the former does win for that splendid little chap, Jimmie Hare, on his favourite course. At Kempton whatever beats

Lucus

will win the Queen's Prize, and, as he is not a game 'un, bet each way, as he may just flinch as at Lincoln.

Over Manchester's very different course, I think

Carsey or Bedgrove

can take the rich Lancashire Steeplechase.

THE "MONDAY MIDGET"
For Accurate Racing Intelligence.
Published every Monday.

Price 2s. 6d.
Four weeks, 7s. 6d. Ten weeks, £1.
Plain Sealed Envelopes.
The "Midget's" Overnight One-Horse Code Selections
Published in all the principal papers in the U. K. every race day.

CINDERELLO
WAS THE M.M.
SINGLE HORSE Selection
FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HANDICAP.
Offices: "MONDAY MIDGET," ASCOT, BERKS.

TOPPING & SPINDLER, FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
The OLDEST ESTABLISHED & MOST EXTENSIVE FIRM of TURF COMMISSION AGENTS in the WORLD.
CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP, Etc.
Double and Treble Events. No Commission whatever on Market, Starting or Accumulatives at Starting Price.
Our "TERMS AND RULES," containing Telegraphic Codes, etc., also "The Continental Sportsman," FREE on receipt of Post Card containing applicant's address.
ALL LETTERS TO BE ADDRESSED:—TOPPING & SPINDLER, FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
Postage 2½d. Post Cards 1d.

THE TOTALISATOR
(Pari-Mutuel),
FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
Tote Prices Lincoln Handicap:
First Pool closed March 1st.
To Win. Places.
Cinderello 30 to 1 ... 13 to 2 ... 21 to 1 ... 7 to 1.
Second Pool closed March 8th.
Cinderello 18 to 1 ... 4 to 1 ... 16 to 1 ... 100 to 8.
Final Pool closed March 15th.
Cinderello 10 to 1 ... 9 to 4 ... 100 to 9 .. 15 to 1.
Above prices are net, and winners get stake back in full.
First Pool City and Suburban closes April 2nd.
TERMS, etc., FREE ON APPLICATION BY PENNY POSTCARD.
Manager, H. CULLBRNE-BOWN.

WILLIAM FARRER
GLASGOW & AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND.
No Football Business undertaken. ‖ Any feasible System worked.
List of Systems and Terms on receipt of 1d. postcard to—
WILLIAM FARRER, Amsterdam, Holland.

RACING FOR PROFIT. "BOOKIES" OUTDONE BY
ALLEN'S
DAILY SYSTEM WIRE.
(Copyright Method, Entered at Stationers' Hall.)
A REGULAR INCOME GUARANTEED.
If you desire to make Racing pay you must follow my daily System Wire. Last year the winnings from March 29th to November 27th amounted to £1,904 5s. 6d., which in the 187 days averages a
PROFIT OF OVER £10 DAILY
These enormous profits were gained with the outlay of only £6 of capital, and after the first three weeks there was no further need to call on the Capital whatever.
I GUARANTEE YOU A REGULAR INCOME,
providing you follow my instructions, and should I fail in my guarantee
I WILL RETURN YOUR MONEY IN FULL
You must admit that this is a sporting offer and is convincing proof that I can do all I claim.
Last Season I finished in good style by sending 13 WINNERS in the last 26 days, as follows:
CHARLEMONT 6 points, SIR MARTIN 4 points, ORQUIL 4½ points, WINKIPOP 1½ points, BONNY BAY 1½ points, WITCHFINDER 10 points, PROTESTANT BOY 4½ points, SANTEVE 11 points, MUSTAPHA 1½ points, ENVY 7 points, BLANKNEY II. 6 points, ELIZABETTA 2½ points, and DIK DIK 6 points.
I want you to write your name and address and the words "John Bull" on a postcard, and post it to me. I will then immediately send you full particulars, together with press notices, copies of testimonials, and a complete list of selections for 1909.
Don't delay, but write at once to
C. ALLEN,
61, Avenue Chambers, Vernon Place, London, W.C.
Telephone No. 15227 Central; Telegrams, "Reginaeon, London."

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL
BERT FRY,
FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
MEMBER OF TATTERSALL'S and Principal Clubs.
Absolutely every Match in the 1st, 2nd and Southern Leagues given to choose from.
"The Scout" says:—
"I put these amounts on with Bert Fry, of Flushing, Holland, who is a Member of Tattersall's and who pays if he loses. Fortunately, I have evidence that he does."
ALL TURF BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN ON UP-TO-DATE TERMS.
LETTER BETTING A SPECIALITY.
£100 to 1/-, or £500 to 5/-, against placing the first three in any big race. £500 to 1/- against placing the first four in any big race.
Send penny Postcard for full information, and names and addresses of persons having won my £5 free offer.

PAUL COVERDALE
Turf Accountant.—NO COMMISSION
AND THE
REAL NO LIMIT.
Write for Book of Rules containing full particulars of above; and We lly Credit Account to
PICCADILLY HOUSE, Sackville Street, London, W.
Telegrams—REPAYABLE, LONDON. Telephones—2284, 2287, 2514, 2515 Mayfair.

THE PORT OF HEALTH.

WINCARNIS

NOW is the time to build up the constitution, to strengthen the vital organs of the body—build up healthy tissue and create the pure rich blood that a dreary winter has rendered weak and debilitated. Just as the farmer fertilises his land in the spring, so do we now need nourishment and rejuvenation. Wincarnis is a revelation to those who have never tried it at this time of year. Taken systematically, it puts new life and vitality—new stamina and invigoration into the whole human frame, and fits you for another year.

SPRINGTIME IS THE TIME TO REPLENISH THE LAMP OF LIFE

with Wincarnis—that is why you should take it now. It will impart a feeling—a natural feeling—of well-being, of exhilaration and vigour that you cannot fail to appreciate. The reason is very simple—Wincarnis is a natural builder of pure, healthy blood. The very life of every organ depends for its efficiency on keeping the blood in good condition—it is the necessary fertiliser of the body, the necessary protection to the whole frame against the inroads of disease.

TEST WINCARNIS FREE.

AFTER TRIAL.—"Wincarnis" can be purchased from chemists and grocers that have wine licences, also wine merchants. It is also sold by the glass and in 1/- flasks at hotels, licensed houses, and railway station refreshment bars. "Wincarnis" is also prepared with quinine, or iron, or pepsine or celery, all of which are beneficial in suitable cases

Sign this Coupon

and send with three penny stamps (to cover carriage) to Coleman & Co., Ltd., 284, Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you will receive a Trial Bottle of "Wincarnis" Free.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

"John Bull," March 26, 1910.

As supplied to the House of Lords & House of Commons.

CHARING CROSS BANK

(Established 1870.)

28, Bedford Street, Charing Cross, London, and 39, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.

Branches: Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Bristol, etc.

Assets, £1,867,948. Liabilities, £1,238,871. Surplus, £371,078.

LOANS of £30 to £2,000 granted at a few hours' notice in Town or Country, on personal security, jewellery, precious stones, stocks, shares and furniture, without removal.

Stocks and Shares bought and sold.

Two-and-a-half per cent. allowed on Current Account Balances

Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—

Subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal 5 p.c. per ann.
" 6 " " 6 " "
" 12 " " 7 " "

Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly.

Owing to the nature of our Investments, we are able to pay rates of interest on deposits that will compare favourably with dividends paid on almost any class of stock or share-holding insuring the safety of capital. We have been established for 40 years, and our position in the banking world to-day testifies to the success of our business methods, and to the satisfaction of our customers. Write or call for prospectus.

A. WILLIAMS and H. J. TALL, Joint Managers.

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(37th Edition.)

Stock Exchange Operations thoroughly explained, also Call Options. How to open an account with limited risk. How to avoid Broker's Commissions. Contains Highest and Lowest Sales for last 15 years. Gratis from Publishers—

FARROW, GRAHAM & CO.,

(Successors to Freeborn, Franklin & Co. Established 1899)

1, Bank Street, Royal Exchange, Manchester.

PROMPT CASH ADVANCES

£100 and upwards to £10,000 lent upon NOTE OF HAND alone with or without security, repayable by monthly or quarterly instalments

BILLS DISCOUNTED

FIELDINGS,

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(Distance no object.) (Strictly confidential.)

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with Return of Purchase Money.

For Particulars write

Gresham Life Assurance Society, Ltd.,

ST. MILDRED'S HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.

Assets Exceed £10,000,000. JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager and Secretary.

The IDEAL Policy

ISSUED BY

THE CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

(Formerly known as the British Homes Assurance Corporation, Ltd.)

PROVIDES

Life Assurance without Medical Examination.

For full particulars of this unique scheme send post-card to

M. GREGORY, Managing Director, 6, Paul Street, Finsbury, London, E.C.

AGENTS WANTED—EXCELLENT PROSPECTS.

DO YOU WANT MONEY

on Note of Hand alone from £10 to £1,000?

IF YOU DO,

and you are a genuine borrower and honourably intend to repay, apply to—

CHARLES STEVENS & CO.,

12, Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.,

or 10, ZETLAND ROAD, BRISTOL.

AND YOU WILL GET IT.

All business conducted confidentially and on plain straightforward principles. Repayments spread over 12 months if desired. An application entails no expense whatever unless the loan is actually completed.

BIRKBECK BANK

Established 1851.

SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

2½ PER CENT. INTEREST

allowed on Deposit Accounts, repayable on demand.

2 PER CENT. INTEREST

on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.

All general Banking Business transacted.

ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.

C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary

A REALLY PRETTY PAPER IDEALLY PRODUCED.

This week's

"THRONE AND COUNTRY."

Read Once—You'll never Miss it.

What is Your Number?

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 50 HELPERS AT 2 GUINEAS APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date, bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 26th:—

13397	90277	183657	246278	326753
13618	102682	187570	249648	327745
20480	104818	195064	269851	330855
23401	121313	203662	276742	345782
48767	125179	215492	277442	346774
56498	130698	218377	278261	350147
60919	132331	222656	279253	376560
63000	137958	227249	311027	377269
63252	169405	230855	317335	377765
87153	174101	241690	319068	378749

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED APRIL 23RD (PUBLISHED APRIL 21ST).

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